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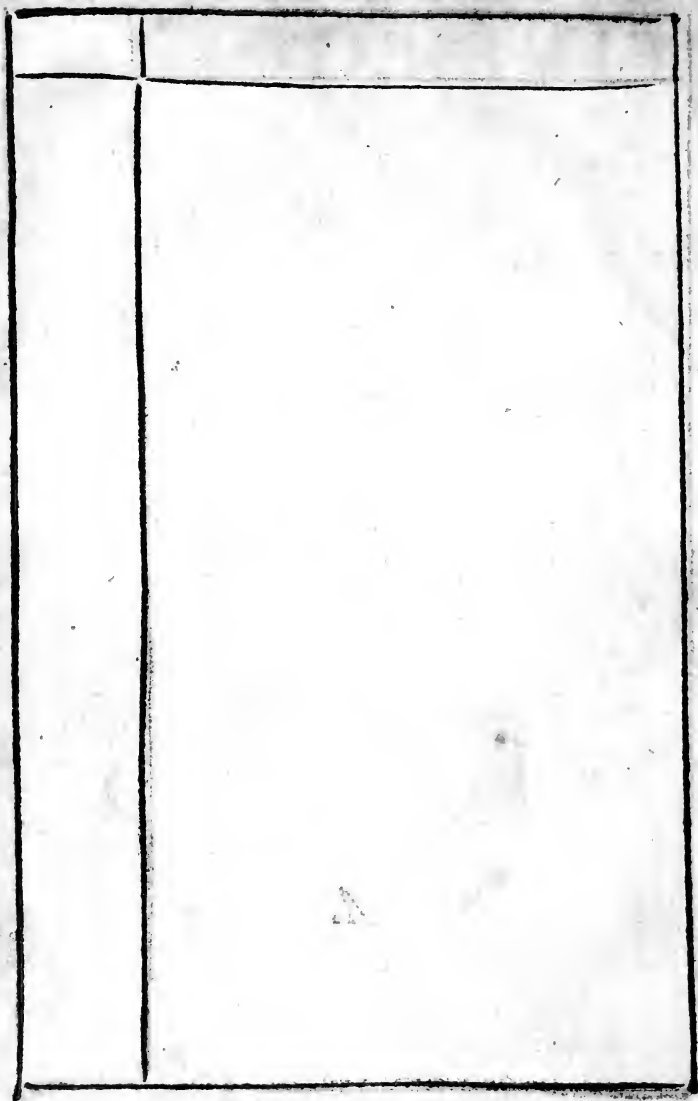
*Treasure Room*







*A.*



# FIVE BOOKES,

OF

## PHILOSOPHICALL COMFORT, FULL

Of Christian consolation, writ-  
ten a 1000. yeeres  
since.

By *Anitius, Manlius, Torquatus, Senerinus,*  
BOETIVS; a Christian Consul  
of ROME.

Newly Translated out of Latine, together  
with Marginall Notes, explaining the  
obscurest places.

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LONDON

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TO THE MOST  
Vertuous L A D Y, the  
*Countesse of D O R S E T*  
D O V V A G E R.



His excellent Booke, proving tho shortly, yet surely, the vanitie of all other goods; the veritie of mans onely good to consist in solely setting his soule on God the soueraigne, yea sole Good; hauing proued profitable to all almost neighbour Nations, as turned into their tongues; I presume to present vnto our Countrie also for our common good. Now for that it is a common vse, in communicating to all a priuate Inuention or Translation, to appropriate

# THE EPISTLE

priate the protection thereof to some one particular Person: in the designing of that Person, vnto me none occurs more proper then your vertuous selfe, not so much for my priuate obligations vnto you (which yet be manifold, I must needs publikely acknowledge) as for a peculiar interest (as I may say) it seems you haue vnto this booke. This Booke (I say) so much esteemed by your late most worthy Lord and Husband, as had his leisure beene answerable to his learning and will, it had beene enobled by a more noble Translatour. This Booke (I say) which though perhaps as Philosophicall for the speculatiue points, may be aboue your vnderstanding, yet as truely Theological for the practicall partes, the principall ende of such speculations, it is I am perswaded according, and vnder your will. And yet also (Madame, for I had rather you should wisely feare, then I foolishly flatter) looke into it as a glasse, not so much to see if most parts be much, as if any bee lesse beautifull. Weigh if in all things and at all times, you haue truely preferred the veritie of goodnesse of God, afore the vanitie of vice of the world: if you haue, continue therein, so much

## DEDICATORIE.

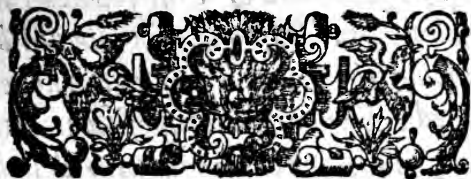
much more carefully, as remaines for you a lesse time of this combersome carefulnesse. If you haue not, bee carefull now in your last times at the least in the principall points to begin your iourney with such alacritie, as with much speed to make perhaps a long way in a short time. This is the greatest good I your poore Client can wish you, this is the powerfulest patronage and highest commendation you can procure to this Booke ; that your selfe doe vertuously no lesse effect in will and worke, then your late loued Lord did affect it in word and vnderstanding. With the which wish to  
the richest seruice my pouer-  
tie can reach vnto,  
I remaine.

*Your most meane but not least  
denoted seruant*

I. T.







## To the Reader.



*T*is an old saying, and not so old as true, that *vin-  
no vendibili non est  
opus hædera*: I would  
it were as true, that the  
best things are alway most esteemed,  
then I would not doubt but that this  
golden booke of Boethius would be in  
great request; for I cannot imagine,  
what fault any man can find with it,  
that is delighted with Vertue. The  
subiect of this Discourse is true Felici-  
tie, the way to it, and the remouing of  
all impediments. All this is expla-  
ned

## To the Reader.

ned by Rhetoricall & Philosophicall discourses. And least any thing should bee wanting, the Poetical Muses are not excluded; Thus are all dispositions satisfied, and profite ioyned with delight. Wherefore well we may say of this worthy Authour: *Omne tulit punctum, qui miscuit vtile dulci.* And yet this I will adde more; that the noble, learned and pyons wits and minds, will take most benefite and pleasure in Boethius. The reason is, for that *similis simili gaudet*; Who more noble then Anitius Manlius Torquatus Seuerinus; since fewe of that family deserved not to be Consuls. And they were worthy of the golden chayne, since their Champion wonne it in the field. Titus Manlius Imeane, who tooke it from his French Challengers necke, and put it about his owne, whereby he purchased to himselfe and his posteritie, the syrname of Torquatus.

## To the Reader.

quatus. And by another no lesse admirable act of iustice, came to bee called Seuerinus, not sparing his owne conquering sonne, because he gaue the battell against his fathers commaund. What should I speake of our Boethius his learning? Let these his five Bookes giue sufficient testimonie thereof. Or if this will not suffice, peruse who list his other monuments, fraught with varietie of all Sciences, both humane and diuine. His pietie appeareth in his whole life, but most of all at his death; hee both wrote and dyed for defence of Christ and his faith against the Arians and other hereticks. Finally he was truly Boethius, that is, an helper and relieuer of all innocent and distressed people. And least his Benefite should liue no longer then himselfe, he committed it to writing, and sendeth it to thee, in this his noble, learned, and pious worke. W hich that our  
Coun=

## To the Reader.

Countrey may the better enioy , is now,  
(as thou seest ) both in English verse and  
prose. Which how hard it was to effect,  
thou mayest guesse in part : since our  
prince of Poets, Chaucer turned it on-  
ly into prose. Which will be a sufficient  
motiue to take this labour in good part;  
and to beare with such faults as cannot  
easily be amended. Though thus much  
also I doe assure thee, that it will be more  
pleasing to the Translatour , to see his  
labour rather amended then commended.

As likewise hee will take it more in  
patience, to haue it carped  
at , then corrupted.

Vale & fructe.

( . . . )

T O



# TO THE YONG

Gentlemen Readers, concerning  
*the Title of this Booke of Philoso-  
phicall Comfort.*

**W**Ho tast s those ioyes which fading pleasure yeelds,  
His age will rue the follies of his youth:  
*But if you trauell in the spacious fields  
Of learned Arts, there seeking pretious truth,  
The sacred Treasure, which you thence haue gained,  
In wants and troubles shall your succour proue;  
And though your bodies be in dungeons chained,  
By wisdomes ayd your minds shall be aboue.  
Then since you may be wretched, poore and old,  
Let not such infants starue for lacke of care,  
Who shall like thankfull children you uphold,  
When they more strong, when you more feeble are.  
Whereof you by this worke the prooffe may see  
In him, whose comforts your instructions bee.*

Another



## Another of the Authour.

**I**N thee (Boetius) that true rule appears,  
That wise men gaine most fame by suffering paines.  
Of all the actions of thy prosperous yeeres  
To after-times small memorie remains:  
But when the cloudes of sorrow stroue & obscure  
Thy vertues light, then it did clearer shine.  
Calamity makes studious minds more pure,  
Their glorie groweth, as their states decline.  
Thou couldst not in thy ioyes haue pleas'd vs so,  
As with this worke, which to thy grieve we owe.

To



## To the friendly Reader.

### Sonnet.

**W**Hat need my lines to recommend these leaues,  
So frequently by learned hands perus'd,  
As that I feare they'll seeme to be abus'd,  
Since customarie praise suspition weaues.

For I mistrust a gorgeous Frontispice,  
Of mercenary penns. If thou doest so,  
And art unlearn'd, to better counsell goe.  
I, thou, nor any can thinke that amisse.

And lettered though thou bee'st, here mayst thou find,  
What other volumes haue not, for thy good:  
Some passages explained of that kind  
As are, at first, not easily understood.

Friend, let with thanks our Author be rewarded,  
Who gaines, nor fame, but thy good hath regarded.

G. G.

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THE  
FIRST BOOKE  
OF BOETIVS.

Containing his Complaint  
*and Miseries.*

THE I. VERSE.

*Wherein Boetius bewaileth his estate.*

**I** That with youthfull heate did verses write,  
Must now my woes in dolefull tunes endite,  
My worke is fram'd by Muses torne and rude,  
And my sad cheeks are with true teares bedew'd  
For these alone no terror could affray,  
From being partners of my weary way,

B

My

# Boetius his

My happy and delightfull ages glory,  
Is my sole comfort, being old and sory.  
Old age through griefe makes unexpected hast,  
And sorrow in my yeares her signes hath plac't,  
Untimely beary haire cou-r my head,  
And my loose skin quakes on my flesh halfe dead,  
O happy death, that spareth sweetest yeares,  
And comes in sorrow often call'd with teares.  
Alas how deafe is he to wretches cries;  
And loth he is to close vp weeping eyes;  
While trustles chance me with vain fauour crowned,  
That saddest houre my life had almost drowned:  
Now she hath clouded her decentfull face,  
My priefull dayes prolong their weary race,  
My friends, why did you count me fortunate?  
He that is full'n, ne're stood in jelled state.

---

## THE I. PROSE.

Containing the description of  
Philosophy.



While I ruminated these  
things with my selfe,  
and determined to set  
forth my woful com-  
plaint in writing; me  
thought

Muses standing about my bed, and suggesting wordes to my teares, being moued for a little space, and inflamed with angry lookes; who (sayth snee) hath permitted these Tragical harlots to haue acesse to this sicke man? which will not onely not comfort his griefes with wholesome remedies, but also nourish them with sugred poyson; for these bethey, which with the fruitlesse thornes of <sup>u</sup> affections doe kill the fruitfull crop of reason, and doe accustome mens minds to sicknesse, and not free them. But if your flattery did depriue vs of some prophane fellow, as commonly it happeneth, I should thinke, that it were not so grieuou-ly to be taken, for in him our labors should receiue no harme. But now you haue laid hand of him, who

B 3

hath

<sup>u</sup> This is the com-  
mon fault  
of Poets, to  
feede and  
nourish  
passion a-  
gainst  
reason.

\* Fleaticis  
of Elea, the  
City where  
*Aristotle*  
studied.

y Note the  
force of a  
grauere  
prehenſion

z Griefe for  
temporall  
loſſes dark  
neth and  
dulleth the  
underſtan-  
ding.

a The way  
to be com-  
forted is to  
give care to  
good coun-  
ſell.

hath beene brought vp in \* Peripa-  
teticall, and Academicall ſtu-  
dies: but rather get you gone,  
you Syrens pleaſant euen to de-  
ſtruction, and leave him to my  
Muſes to be cured and healed. That  
y company being thus checked, o-  
uercome with griefe, caſting their  
eyes vpon the ground, and bewray-  
ing their baſhfulneſſe with bluſh-  
ing, went ſadly away. And I, whoſe  
ſight was dimmed with teares, ſo  
that I could not diſcerne what this  
woman might be, ſo imperious,  
and of ſuch authority, was aſtoni-  
ſhed, and fixing my countenance v-  
pon the earth, began to expect with  
a ſilence what ſhee would doe af-  
terward. Then ſhe comming  
nigher, ſate downe at my beds feet,  
and beholding my countenance ſad  
with mourning, and caſt vpon the  
ground

ground with griefe, complained of  
the perturbation of my mind with  
these verses.

## THE II. VERSE.

Phylosophy bewayleth the pertur-  
bation of Boetius his mind.

**A**las, how thy dull mind is headlong cast  
In deptes of moe, where all her light once lost,  
She doth to walke in utter darkenes hast,  
While cares grow great wth earthly tempests test.  
He, that through th'opned heau'ns did freely runne,  
And vs'd to trauaile the celestiake wayes,  
Marking the rosie splendor of the sunne,  
And noting Cynthiaes cold and watry rayes.  
He that did brauely comprehend in verse,  
The different spheres, and wandring course of stars,  
He that was wont the causes to rehearse,  
Why sounding winds doe with the seas make wars,  
What spirit moues the worlds well settled frame,  
And why the Sunne, whome forth the East doth bring  
In westerne waues doth hide his falling flame,  
Searching what power tempers the pleasing spring,  
Which makes the earth her rosie flowers to beare.  
Whose gift it is, that Autumnes fruitfull season,

## Boetius his

<sup>a</sup> The foresaid speculation.

<sup>b</sup> Affection to earthly things and

the passions which ensue thereof. <sup>c</sup> To thinke vpon earthly things

*Should with full grapes flow in a plenteous yeare,  
Telling of secret Nature euery reason,  
Now hauing lost the <sup>a</sup> beauty of his mind.*

*Lies with his necke compassed in pond'rous <sup>b</sup> chaines,  
His countenance with heauy waight declin'd,  
Him to <sup>c</sup> bebold the sullen earth constraines.*

### THE II. PROSE.

*Phylosophy enquireth of Boetius  
his disease.*



Vt it is rather time  
(saith she) to apply  
remedies, then to  
make complaintes:  
And then looking  
wishly vpon me; Art thou he (saith  
she) which being long since nur=  
sed with our milke, and brought  
vp with our nourishments, wert  
come to mans estate? but we had  
giuen thee such <sup>a</sup> weapons, as if  
thou haddest not cast them away,  
would

<sup>a</sup> The intellectual and  
Cardinall,  
or morall  
vertues.

would haue made thee inuincible:  
 Doeſt thou not know me? why  
 doeſt thou not ſpeake? Is it <sup>b</sup> ſhame-  
 faſtneſſe or vnſenſibleneſſe that  
 makes thee ſilent? I had rather it  
 were ſhamefaſtneſſe, but I perceiue  
 thou art become vnſenſible. And  
 ſeeing me not onely ſilent, but al-  
 together mute and dumbe; fayre  
 and eaſily ſhe laid her hand vpon  
 my breasts ſaying, <sup>c</sup> there is no dan-  
 ger, he is in a <sup>d</sup> Lethargie, the com-  
 mon diſeaſe of deceiued minds: he  
 hath a little forgot himſelfe, but he  
 will eaſily remember himſelfe a-  
 gaine, if he be brought to know vs  
 firſt. To which end, let vs a little  
 wipe his eyes, dimmed with the  
 cloud of mortall things. And ha-  
 uing ſaid thus, with a <sup>e</sup> corner of  
 her garment ſhee dried my eyes  
 which were wet with teares.

<sup>b</sup> Shame-  
faſtneſſe  
cauſeth on-  
ly ſilence,  
vnſenſible-  
neſſe taketh  
away both  
ſpeech and  
memory:

<sup>c</sup> He is an  
ill Phyſiti-  
on who de-  
ſpayreth o-  
f his cure.  
*Sen l. de,  
Clem.*  
<sup>d</sup> Forget-  
fulneſſe.

<sup>e</sup> Some  
vulgar ſen-  
tences  
which  
he could  
not alto-  
gether forget.

THE

**T H E I I I . V E R S E .**

*How Boetius began to recouer his  
knowledge and memory.*

**T***Hen fled the night and darkenes did me leane,  
Mine eyes their wonted strength receine:  
As when the starres withdraw their hasty band,  
If hea'ns ore:ast with cloudes doe stand,  
The Sunne doth lurke, the earth receiveth night,  
Efore the time of starry light.  
But if fierce Boreas sent from Thrace make way  
For the restoring of the day,  
Phabus with fresh and sodaine beames doth rise,  
Striking with light our wondring eyes.*

---

**T H E I I I . P R O S E .**

*How the persecution of Wisemen is no  
new or strange thing.*



**I***n like manner the  
mists of sadnesse dis-  
solved I came to my  
selfe, and recovered  
my iudgement, so  
that*



that I knew my Physicians face :  
 wherefore casting mine eyes vpon  
 her somewhat stedfastly, I beheld  
 my nurse *Philosophy*, in whose  
 house I had remained from my  
 youth, and I said : O Mistresse of  
 all vertues, for what cause art thou  
 come from <sup>a</sup> heauen into this our  
 solitary banishment? art thou come  
 to beare me company in being fal-  
 sly accused? Should I (saith she)  
 forsake thee my Disciple, and not  
 deuide the burthen, which thou  
 bearest for enuy to my name, by  
 partaking of thy labour? But *Philo-  
 sophy* thought it not lawfull to for-  
 sake the innocent in his trouble.  
 Should I feare any accusation? as  
 though this were any new matter?  
 for doest thou thinke, that this is  
 the first time, that Wisedome hath  
 been exposed to danger by wicked  
 men?

<sup>a</sup> *Philoso.*  
 by the  
 gift of God.

<sup>b</sup> He was put to death at Athens by *crastus*, for acknowledging one God and the immortality of the soule.

<sup>c</sup> False opinions acknowledge some sentences of Philosophie in a wrong sense.

men? Haue we not in ancient times before our *Platoes* age, had oftentimes great conflicts with the rashnesse of folly? and while he liued, had not his Master <sup>b</sup> *Socrates* the victory of an vniust death in my presence, whose inheritance, when afterward the *Epicures*, *Stoikes*, and others, (euery one for his own sect) endeuoured to vsurpe, and as it were in part of their pray, sought to draw me to them, exclaiming and striuing against them; they tore the garment which I had wouen with my owne hands, and hauing gotten some little peeces of it, thinking me to be wholly in their possession, departed. Amongst whom, because <sup>c</sup> certaine signes of my apparell appeared, indiscretion supposing that they were my familiar friends, hath peruerted and drawn many

many into the errors of those prophane multitudes. But if thou hast not heard of the flight of <sup>d</sup> *Anaxagoras*, the poyson of *Socrates*, nor the torments of <sup>e</sup> *Zeno*, because they are forraine examples, yet thou maiest haue heard of <sup>f</sup> *Cannius* of *Seneca*, of <sup>h</sup> *Soranus*, whose memory is both fresh and famous, whome nothing else brought to their overthrow, but that they had been instructed in our schoole, and were altogether disliking to the humors of wicked men; wherefore thou hast no cause to maruaile, if in the sea of this life we be tossed with boysterous stormes, whose chiefest purpose is to displease the wicked: Of which though there be an huge armie, yet it is to be despised, because it is not gouerned by any <sup>k</sup> Captaine, but is carried vp and downe

<sup>d</sup> He was constrained to flie for denying religion to God.  
<sup>e</sup> He was pounded in a mortar by a tyrant whome he impugned.  
<sup>f</sup> A Poet put to death by *Cassius* the Emperour.  
<sup>g</sup> *Neroes* Schoole-master, who caused him to bleed to death.  
<sup>h</sup> A famous Poet acknowledging God, was crucified by some wicked men.  
<sup>i</sup> The displeasure of the wicked is rather to be desired then feared.  
<sup>k</sup> Because they follow not reason.

## Boetius his

1 Right rea-  
son.  
m The other  
powers of  
the Soule.  
n Of Vertue  
and con-  
templation  
o Temporal  
things.

downe by phantasticall Errour  
without any order at all And if at  
any time they assaile vs with grea-  
ter force, <sup>i</sup> our Captaine retireth  
<sup>m</sup> her bands into <sup>n</sup> a Castle, leauing  
them occupied in sacking <sup>o</sup> vnpro-  
fitable baggage. And from aboue  
we laugh them to scorn for seeking  
so greedily after most vile things  
being safe from all their furious  
assault, and fortified with that de-  
fence, which aspiring Folly cannot  
preuaile agan<sup>st</sup>.

### THE IIII. VERSE.

*How we may resist the persecution of  
the wicked.*

**VV** Ho mildly can his age dispose,  
And at his feet proud destiny throwes:  
Who stoutly do: each chance behold,  
Keeping his countenance uncontrolld:  
Not him the Oceans rage, and threat,

*Stirring*

Stirring the waues with angry heate,  
Nor boate <sup>a</sup> Veseuus when he casts  
From broken hilles enflamed blasts;  
Nor fiery thunder can dismay,  
Which takes the tops of towers away.  
Why doe fierce tyrants vs affright,  
Whose rage is farre beyond their might?  
For nothing hope nor feare thou harme,  
So their weake wrath thou shalt disarm:  
But he whome hope or terror takes,  
Being a slaue his shield forsakes,  
And leaues his place, and doth provide  
A chaine, wherewith his banas are tye.

<sup>a</sup> A moun-  
taine by  
Naples.

### THE IIII. PROSE.

Euotius discovereth the causes of  
his grieve.



Understandest thou these  
things (saith she) and doe  
they make impression in  
thy mind? Art thou *ὄνος πρὸς λόγον*? why  
weepest thou? why sheddest thou  
so many teares? *ἔλαυδα μὴ κεύθε ῥόν*: If  
thou expectest to be cured, thou  
must

*Asinus ad  
Lyram.*

*Eloquere, ne  
occidat in-  
tellectus.*

<sup>a</sup> The first  
cause of  
*Boetius* his  
griefe was  
his banish-  
ment and  
misery.

must discover thy wound. Then  
I collecting the forces of my mind  
together, made her answer in  
these words. Doth the cruelty of  
fortunes rage neede further decla-  
ration, or doth it not sufficiently  
appeare of it selfe? doth not the ve-  
ry countenance of this<sup>a</sup> place move  
thee? Is this the Library, which  
thou thy selfe hadst chosen to sit  
in at my house? in which thou hast  
oftentimes discoursed with me of  
the knowledge of diuine and hu-  
maine things? Had I this attire or  
countenance, when I searched the  
secrets of Nature with thee, when  
thou describedst vnto me the  
course of the starres with thy Geo-  
metricall rod, when thou diddest  
frame my conuersation, and the  
maner of my whole life according  
to the pattern of the caelestiall or-  
der.

der. Are these the<sup>b</sup> rewardes, which thy obedient seruants haue? But thou diddest decree that sentence by the mouth of *Plato*; that common wealthes should be happy, if either the Students of wisdom did gouerne them, or those which were appointed to gouerne them, would giue themselves to the study of wisdom. Thou by the same Philosopher diddest admonish vs, that it is a sufficient cause for wise-men to take vpon themselves the gouernement of the common-wealth, lest if the rule of Cities were left in the hands of lewd and wicked Citizens, they should work the subuersion and ouerthrow of the good. Wherefore following this authority, I desired to practise that by publike administration which I had learned of thee in priuate con-  
C
ference.

<sup>b</sup> the second  
 cause, be-  
 cause he  
 had not  
 deserued  
 them, ha-  
 uing a  
 good inten-  
 tion in a-  
 mitting  
 promotion

ference. Thou and God him selfe who hath inserted thee in the minds of the wise, are my witnesses, that nothing but the common desire of all good men, brought me to be a Magistrate. This hath beene the<sup>c</sup> cause of my grievous and irreconcilable disagreements with wicked men, and that which freedom of conscience carrieth with it, of contemning the indignation of Potentates for the defence of iustice. How often haue I encountered with<sup>d</sup> *Conigastus*, violently possessing him selfe with poore mens goods? How often haue I put backe<sup>e</sup> *Triguilla* Prouost of the Kings house from iniuries which he had begunne, yea and finished also? How often haue I protected by putting my authority in danger, such poore wretches, as the vnpu-

<sup>c</sup> Thirdly, he deserued the contrary.

<sup>d</sup> One of king Theodoricus his chiefest fauorites.

<sup>e</sup> Another



vnpunished couetousnesse of the  
 barbarous did vexe with infinite  
 reproches? Neuer did any man  
 draw me from right to wrong. It  
 grieved me no lesse then them  
 which suffered it, to see the wealth  
 of our Subiects wasted, partly with  
 priuate pillage, and partly by pub-  
 like tributes. When in the time of  
 a great dearth things were set at so  
 excesssiue and vnreasonable a rate,  
 that the Prouince of *Campania* was  
 like to bee altogether impoueri-  
 rished for the common good, I  
 stucke not to contend with the  
 chiefe Prætor himselfe, and the  
 matter was discussed before the  
 king, and I preuailed so farre, that  
 it went not forward. I drew *Pauli-  
 nus*, who had been Confull, out of  
 the very mouth of the gaping  
 Courtiers, who like rauenous curs,

f The  
 Gothes.

had already in hope and ambition deuoured his riches. That *Albinus* who had likewise beene Consul, might not be punished vpon presumptions and false accusation, I exposed my selfe to the hatred of *Cyprian* his accuser. May I seeme to haue prouoked enmity enough against my selfe? But others should so much the more haue procured my safety, since that for the loue I bare to iustice, I left my selfe no way by the meanes of Courtiers to be safe. § But by whose accusations did I receiue this blow? by theirs, who, long since hauing put *Basil* out of the kings seruice, compelled him now to accuse me, by the necessity which he was driuen to by debt. *Opilio* likewise and *Gaudentius* being banished by the kings decree, for the iniuries and manifold deceites,

§ The fourth cause of his griete, the basenes of his accusers and the open iniustice of his accusation.

deceites, which they had committed, because they would not obey, defended themselves by taking Sanctuary, of which the king hearing, gaue sentence, that vlesse they departed out of the City of *Rauenna* within certaine daies, they should be branded in the foreheads, and put out by force. What could be added to this seuerity? And yet that very day, their accusation against me went for currant. What might be the reason of this? did my dealing deserue it? or did their condemnation which went before, make them iust accusers? was not fortune ashamed? if not that innocency was accused, yet at least, that it had so vile and base accusers? But <sup>h</sup>what crime was laid to my charge? wilt thou haue it in one word? I am said to haue desi-

<sup>h</sup> Fifthly,  
His chiefe  
offence  
was vertue.

red the Senates safety. Wilt thou know the maner how? I am blamed for hauing hindred their accuser to bring forth euidence, by which he should proue the Senate guilty of treason. What thinkest thou O Mistresse? Shall I deny this fault, that I may not shame thee? But it is true, I desired it, neither will I euer cease from hauing that desire. Shall I confesse it? but then I must leaue hindering their accuser. Shall I call it an offence to haue wished the safety of that order? Indeed the Senate with their decrees concerning me, had made it an offence. But Folly alway deceiuing her selfe, cannot change the deserts of things, neither doe I thinke it lawfull for me by the decree of Socrates, either to haue concealed the truth, or granted a lie. But  
how

how this may be, I leaue to thine, and wisemens censure. And that the posterity may not be ignorant of the course and truth of the matter, I haue put it downe in writing: for what should I speake of those fained<sup>i</sup> letters, in which I am charged to haue hoped for the Roman liberty? The deceit of which would manifestly haue appeared, if it might haue been lawfull for me to haue vsed the confession of my very accusers, which in all busines is of greatest force: for what liberty remaineth there to be hoped for? I would to God there were any? I would haue answered as *Caninus* did, who being charged by *Caius Caesar*, sonne to *Germanicus*, that he was priuy to the conspiracy made against him, answered: If I had been made acquainted with it, thou

<sup>i</sup> Sixtly He was falsely accused & not permitted to vse the testimony of his very accusers.

<sup>k</sup>Seuenthy  
He griueth  
that wicked  
men are a-  
ble to pre-  
uaile a-  
gainst the  
good.

shouldest neuer haue known of it. Neither hath sorrow so dulled my wits, that I complaine of the wicked endeouours of sinnefull men against vertue, but I exceedingly maruaile at those things, which they hoped to bring to passe: for the desire of doing euill may be attributed to our weakenesse, but that in the sight of <sup>k</sup> God, the wicked should be able to compasse whatsoeuer they contriue against the innocent, is altogether monstrous; vpon which occasion not without cause, one of thy familiar friends demanded, (if saith he) there be a God, from whence proceed so many euils? and if there be no God, from whence cometh any good? But let that passe, that wicked men, which seeke the bloud of all good men, and of the whole

whole Senate, would also haue ouerthrowne me, whome they saw to stand in defence of good men, and of the Senate: <sup>1</sup> But did I deserue the same of the Senators themselves? I suppose thou remembrest, how thou being present, diddest alway direct me, when I went about to say or doe any thing. Thou remembrest I say, when at *Verona*, the king being desirous of a common ouerthrow, endeauoured to lay the treason, whereof one'y *Albinus* was accused, vpon the whole order of the Senate, with how great securitie of my owne danger, I defended the innocency of the whole Senate. Thou knowest that these things which I say are true, and that I was neuer delighted in my own praise, for the secret of a good conscience

<sup>1</sup> Fightly,  
The Senators them  
selues of  
whome hee  
had deser-  
ued so well,  
were his e-  
nemies.

<sup>m</sup> Ninthly,  
all conspi-  
red again<sup>s</sup>  
him, no  
man had  
compassi-  
on of him.

science is in some sort diminished,  
when by declaring what he hath  
done, a man receiue the reward  
offame. But thou seest to what  
passe my innocency is come : in  
stead of the rewards of true vertue, I  
vndergo the punishment of wic-  
kednesse, wherewith I am falsly  
charged. <sup>m</sup> Was it euer yet seene,  
that the manifest confession of any  
crime, made the Iudges so to con-  
forme themselues to seuerity, that  
either the errour of mans iudge-  
ment, or the condition of Fortune,  
which is certaine to none, did not  
incline some of them to fauour? If I  
had beene accused, that I would  
haue burnt the Churches, or wic-  
kedly haue killed the Priestes, or  
haue sought the death of all good  
men, yet sentence should haue been  
pronounced against me present, ha-  
uing



uing confessed, and being conuicted. <sup>n</sup> Now being conuained five hundred miles of, not suffered to make any defence, I am condemned to death and proscription, for bearing the Senate too much good will. O Senate, which deserves that neuer any may be conuicted of the like crime. The dignity of which guilt, euen the very accusers themselves saw, which that they might obscure by adding some kind of fault, they belyed me, that I had defiled my conscience with <sup>o</sup> sacrifice, for an ambitious desire of preferment. But thou, which haddest seated thy selfe in me, diddest repell from the seat of my mind all desire of mortall things, and within thy sight there was no place for sacrifice to harbour; for thou diddest instill into my eares and thoughts

<sup>n</sup> 10. He was condemned being absent.

<sup>o</sup> 11. He was falsely accused of forcery.

Sequitur  
Deum.

thoughts dayly that saying of Pythagoras; ἐπεὶ δὲ: Neither was it fitting for me, to vse the aide of most vile spirites, whome thou haddest framed to that excellency, that I might become like to God. Besides the innocency which appeared in the most retired roomes of my house, the assembly of my most honourable friends, my holy and worthily renowmed father in Law Symmachus, doe cleare mee from all suspition of this crime. But O detestable wickednesse. They the rather giue credite to so great a crime, and thinke me the nigher to such mischieuous dealing, because I am endewed with thy knowledge, and adorned with thy vertues, so that it is not inough that I reape no commodity for thy respect, vnlesse<sup>F</sup> thou beest also dishonoured

p 12 Philo-  
sophy and  
Learning  
dishonou-  
red for his  
respect.

honoured for the hatred conceiued  
against me. And that my miseries  
may increase the more, the greatest  
part doe not so much respect the va-  
lue of things, as the euent of for-  
tune, and they esteeme onely that to  
be prouidently done, which the  
happy successe commends. By  
which means it commeth to passe,  
that the first losse which miserable  
men haue is their<sup>q</sup> estimation, and  
the good opinion which was had  
of them. What rumors goe now a-  
mong the people, what dissonant  
& diuers opinions? I cannot abide  
to thinke of them: onely this I will  
say, the last burthen of aduersity is,  
that when they which are in mise-  
ry, are accused of any crime, they  
are thought to deserue whatso-  
euer they suffer. And I spoiled of  
all my goodes, bereaued of my dig-

q 12. The  
losse of e-  
stimation  
with the  
greatest  
part.

14. The  
wicked en-  
couraged  
and the  
good dis-  
mayed by  
his fall.

dignities, blemished in my  
good name, for benefites receiue  
punishments. And me thinks I see  
the cursed cruels of the wicked a-  
bounding with ioy and gladnesse,  
and euery lost companion deuising  
with himselfe, how to accuse others  
falsly, good men lie prostrate with  
the terror of my danger, and euery  
lewd fellow is prouoked by impu-  
nity to attempt any wickednesse,  
and by rewards to bring it to ef-  
fect; but the innocent are not  
onely deprived of all security,  
but also of any maner of  
defence. Wherefore I may  
well exclaime.

THE

## THE V. VERSE.

Boetius complaineth, that all things are  
gouerned by Gods prouidence, beside  
the actions and affayres of men.

**C**reator of the skie,  
Who sitst on i thine eternall throne on hie,  
Who doest quicke motion cause,  
In all the heauens, and giu'st the starres their lawes.  
That the pale Queene of night,  
Sometimes receiuing all her brothers light,  
Should shine in her full pride,  
And with her beames the lesser stars should hide;  
Sometimes she wants her grace,  
When the sunnes rayes are in lesse distant place.  
And<sup>a</sup> Hesperus that flies  
As Messenger before the night doth rise,  
And oft with sodaine change  
Before the Sunne, as<sup>a</sup> Lucifer doth range.  
Thou short the dayes doest make,  
When Winter from the trees the leaues doth take:  
Thou when the fiery Sunne,  
Doth summer cause, mak'st the nights swiftly run.  
Thy might doth rule the yeare,  
As Northerne winds the leaues away doe beare,  
So Zephyrus from West,  
The plants in all their glory doth reuest;  
And<sup>b</sup> Syrius burnes that corne,

<sup>a</sup> The same  
starre hath  
two contra-  
ry names,  
because it  
appeares  
both in the  
euening  
and mor-  
ning.

With

# Boetius his

b Diuerſe  
ſtarres  
which ap-  
peare by  
the ſunne  
in diuers  
ſeaſons.

With which<sup>b</sup> Arcturus did the earth adorne.  
None from thy lawes are free,  
Nor can forſake their place ordain'd by thee.  
Thou that to certaine end  
Gouern'ſt all things; denyeſt thou to intend  
The Actſ of men alone,  
'Directing them in meaſure from thy throne?  
For why ſhould ſlipp'ry chance  
Rule all things with ſuch doubtfull gouernance?  
Or why ſhould puniſhments,  
Due to the guilty light on innocents?  
But now the higheſt place,  
Giueſt to naughty maners greateſt grace,  
And wicked people vex  
Good men, and tread vniuſally on their necks,  
Vertue in darkneſſe lurkes,  
And righteous ſoules are charg'd with impious works.  
Deceues nor Perjuries,  
Diſgrace not thoſe, who colour them with lies,  
For, when it doth them pleaſe,  
To ſhew their force, they to their will with eaſe,  
The hearts of kings can ſcare,  
To whom ſo many crouch with trembling feare,  
O thou that ſoy'n'ſt with loue  
All worldly things, locke from thy ſeat above  
On the earthes wretched ſtate,  
We men, not the leaſt worke thou didſt create,  
With fortunes blaſts doeſt ſhake,  
Thou carefull ruler, theſe fierce tempeſts ſlake,  
And for the earth provide,  
Thoſe lawes by which thou hea'nn in peace doſt guide.

THE

THE V. PROSE.

Philosophy sheweth that Boetius is the  
cause of his owne misery.



When I had vttered these  
speeches with continued  
griefe, sheewith an ami-  
able countenance, and nothing  
moued with my complaines, said;  
when I first saw thee sad and wee-  
ping, I forthwith knew thee to be  
in misery and banishment. But I  
had not knowne how farre of;  
thou wert banished, if thy speech  
had not bewrayed it. O how farre  
art thou gone from thy<sup>a</sup> Country,  
not being driuen away, but wan-  
dring of thine owne accord. Or if  
thou haddest rather be thought to  
haue been driuen out, it hath been  
onely by thy selfe; for neuer could  
any other but thy selfe haue done

D

it;

<sup>a</sup> Mans  
Country is  
wisedome,  
*Senec. de  
remed.  
Fortun. Si  
sapientest  
non peregrin-  
natur, si  
stultus est,  
exulat.*

## Boetius his

Sed Gnat  
Rex est, Gnat  
Dominus.

it; for if thou remembreſt, of what Country thou art, it is not gouerned as *Athens* was wont to be, by the multitude ἀλλὰ εἰς βασιλεὺς εἰσι, εἰς κοινόν, It is desirous to haue abundance of Citizens, and not to haue them driuen away. To be gouerned by whose authority, and to be subiect to her lawes, is the greatest freedome that can be. Art thou ignorant of that most ancient law of thy City, by which it is decreed, that he may not be banished, that hath made choice of it for his dwelling place : for he that is within her fort or hold, needs not feare, lest he deserue to be banished. But who-soeuer ceaseth to desire to dwell in it, ceaseth likewise to deserue so great a benefite. Wherefore the countenance of this place moueth me not so much as thy countenance



nance doth. Neither do I so much require thy Library adorned with yuory feelings, and christall windowes, as the seat of thy mind, in which I haue not placed bookes, but that which makes bookes to be esteemed of, I meane the sentences of my books, which were written long since. And that which thou hast said of thy deserts to the common good, is true indeed, but little in respect of the many things which thou hast done. That which thou hast reported, either of the honesty, or of the falsenesse of those things, which are objected against thee, is knowne to all men. Thou diddest well to touch but briefly the wickednesse and deceit of thy accusers, for that the common people to whose notice they are come, doe more fitly and largely

speake of them. Thou hast also sharply rebuked the vniust Senates deed. Thou hast also grieued at our accusation, and hast bewailed the losse or diminishing of our good name: and lastly, thy sorrow ragged against fortune, and thou complaynedst, that deserts were not equally rewarded. In the end of thy bitter verse, thou desiredst, that the earth might be gouerned by that peace, which heauen enioyeth. But because thou art turmoiled with the multitude of affections, grieve and anger drawing thee to diuerse partes, in the plight thou art now, the more forcible remedies cannot be applyed vnto thee; wherefore, for a while, we will vse the more easie, that thy affections, which are as it were hardened and swolne with  
per-

perturbations; may by gentle handling be mollified and disposed to receiue the force of sharper medicines.

---

THE VI. VERSE.

*Philosophy proueth that order is necessary in all things.*

**V**Vhen boat with Phæbus beams,  
The Crab casts fiery gleames,  
He, that doth then with seede,  
The fruitlesse furrowes feede,  
Deceiued of his bread,  
Must be with akornes fed,  
Seeke not the flowry woods,  
For Violets sweet buddes,  
When fields are ouercast  
With the fierce Northerne blast,  
Nor hope then home to bring,  
The branches of the spring.

## Boetius his

If thou in grapes delight,  
In Autumne Bacchus might  
With them doth decke our clime.  
God eu'ry seu'rall time,  
With proper grace hath crown'd,  
Nor will those lawes confound,  
Which he once settled hath.  
He, that with headlong path  
This certaine order leaues,  
An haplesse end receaues.

---

## THE VI. PROSE.

*Philosophy discovereth the inward causes of Boetius his griefe.*



Ifst therefore wilt thou let  
me touch and trie the state  
of thy mind by asking thee  
a few questions, that I may vnder-  
stand how thou art to be cured.  
To which I answered, aske me  
what

what questions thou wilt, and I will answer thee. And then shee said, Thinkest thou that this world is governed by happy hazard and chance? or rather dost thou believe that it is ruled by reason? I can (quoth I) in no manner imagine, that such certaine motions are caused by rash chance. And I know that God the Creator doth govern his worke, neither will I ever thinke otherwise. It is so, saith shee, for so thou saidst in thy verse a little before, and bewayledst, that onely men were void of Gods care; for as for the rest, thou diddest not doubt, but that they were governed by reason. And surely I cannot chuse, but exceedingly admire, how thou canst be ill affected, holding so wholesome an opinion. But let vs search further, I gesse thou wantest

test something, but I know not what. Tell mee, since thou doubtest not, that the world is gouerned by God, canst thou tell me also by what meanes it is gouerned? I doe scarcely (quoth I) vnderstand what thou askest, and much lesse am I able to make thee a sufficient answer. Was I (quoth thee) deceiued in thinking that thou wantedst something, by which as by the breach of a fortresse, the sicknesse of perturbations hath entred into thy mind? But tell me, doest thou remember, what is the end of things? or to what the whole intention of nature tendeth? I haue heard it (quoth I) but grieve hath dulled my memory. But knowest thou from whence all things had their beginning? I know (quoth I) and answered, that from God.

And

And how can it be, that knowing the beginning, thou canst be ignorant of the end? But this is the condition and force of perturbations, that they may alter a man; but wholly destroy, and as it were roote him out of himselfe, they cannot. But I would haue thee answere me to this also; dost thou remember, that thou art a man? why should I not remember it. (quoth I?) Well then, canst thou explicate what man is? Dost thou aske me, if I know that I am a reasonable and mortall living creature? I knowe and confesse my selfe to bee so. To which shee replyed, dost thou not know thy selfe to bee any thing else? Not any thing. Now I know (quoth shee) another, and that perhaps the greatest cause of thy sicknesse, thou hast forgotten what

<sup>a</sup> The cause  
and remedy  
of excessiue  
griefe.

what thou art. Wherefore I haue fully found out, both the<sup>a</sup> manner of thy disease, and the meanes of thy recovery : for the confusion which thou art in, by the forgetfulnesse of thy selfe, is the cause, why thou art so much grieved at thy exile, and the losse of thy goods. And because, thou art ignorant, what is the end of things, thou thinkest, that lewd and wicked men be powerfull and happy; likewise, because thou hast forgotten, by what meanes the world is gouerned, thou imaginest, that these alterations of fortunes doe fall out without any guide. Sufficient causes not onely of sicknesse, but also of death it selfe. But thanks be to the author of thy health, that Nature hath not altogether forsaken thee.

We



We haue the greatest nourisher of thy health, the true opinion of the gouernement of the world, in that thou belceuest that it is not subiect to the euents of chance, but to diuine reason: Wherefore feare nothing, out of this little sparkle will be inkindled thy vitall heat. But because it is not yet<sup>b</sup> time to vse more solide remedies; and it is manifest, that the nature of minds is such, that as often as they cast away true opinions, they are possessed with false, out of which the darkenesse of perturbations arising doth make them, that they cannot discern things aright: I will endeouour to dissolue this cloude with gentle and moderate fomentations; that hauing remoued the obscurity of deceitfull affections, thou mayest behold the splendor of true light.

<sup>b</sup>Discretion to be vsed in comforting the afflicted.

THE

THE VII. VERSE.

Philosophy declareth how the perturbations of our mind doe hinder vs from the knowledge of truth.

**W**hen starres are shrowded  
With duskie night,  
They yeeld no light  
Being so clouded.  
When the wind moueth,  
And waues doth reare,  
The Sea late cleare,  
Foule and darke proueth.  
And riuers creeping  
Downe a high hill,  
Stand often still,  
Rocks them backe keeping.  
If thou wouldst brightly,  
See truthes cleare rayes,  
Or walke these wayes,  
Which lead most right ly,  
All ioy forsaking,  
Feare thou must flie,  
And hopes desir,  
No sorrow taking.  
For where these terrors  
Raigne in the mind,  
They it doe bind,  
In cloudy errors.



THE  
SECOND BOOKE  
OF BOETIUS.

In which Philosophy apply-  
*eth the more easie remedies to*  
*Boetius his grieve.*

---

THE I. PROSE.

*Of the deceites and inconstancy of*  
*Fortune.*



After this shee remai-  
ned silent for a while;  
and hauing by that  
her modesty made  
me attentiuē, began  
in

<sup>a</sup> The de-  
ceites of  
fortune.

in this wile: If I be rightly en-  
formed of the causes and conditi-  
on of thy disease, thou languishest  
with the affection and desire of thy  
former fortune, and the change of that  
alone, as thou imaginest, hath ouer-  
throwne the state of thy mind. I know  
the manifold<sup>a</sup> illusions of that monster,  
exercising most alluring familiarity  
with them, whome shee meaneth to de-  
ceiue, to the end shee may confound  
them with intolerable griefe, by for-  
saking them vpon the sodain, whose  
nature, customes and desert, if thou  
remembrest, thou shalt know, that  
thou neither diddest possesse, nor  
hast lost any thing of estimation in  
it; and as I hope, I shall not need to  
labour much to bring these things to  
thy remembrance, for thou wert wont,  
when shee

sheewas present, and flattered thee most, to assayle her with manfull words, and pursue her with sentences taken forth of our most hidden knowledge. But euery sodaine change of thinges happeneth not without a certaine wauering and disquietnesse of mind. And this is the cause, that thou also for a while hast lost thy former tranquility and peace. But it is time for thee to take and taste some gentle and pleasant thing, which being receiued may prepare thee for stronger potions ; Wherefore let vs vse the sweetnesse of<sup>b</sup> Rhetoricall perswasions, which then onely is well employed, when it forsaketh not our ordinances; and with this, let Musicke a little slaue belonging to our house, chaunt sometime lighter and sometime sadder notes. Wherefore O man, what

<sup>b</sup> The true vse of Rhetoricke and Poetry, or Musicke.

<sup>c</sup> Fortune  
onely con-  
stant in be-  
ing muta-  
ble.

what is it, that hath cast thee into sorrow and griefe? If thou thinkest that fortune hath altered her maner of proceeding toward thee, thou art in an error. This was alway her fashion, this is her nature. Shee hath kept that <sup>c</sup> constancie in thy affaires, which is proper to her, in being mutable, such was her condition when she fawned vpon thee and allured thee with entisements of fained happinesse. Thou hast discovered the doubtfull lookes of this blind Goddesse. Shee, which concealeth her selfe from others, is wholly knownen to thee. If thou likest her, frame thy selfe to her conditions, and make no complaint. If thou detestest her treacherie, despise and cast her off, with her pernicious flatterie. For that, which hath caused thee so much sorrow, should haue brought

brought thee to great tranquillitie. For shee hath forsaken thee, of whom no man can be secure. Dost thou esteeme that happinesse precious, which thou art to loose? And is the present fortune deare vnto thee, of whose stay thou art not sure, and whose departure will breede thy griefe. And if shee can neither be kept at our will, and maketh them miserable, whom shee leaueth, what else is fickle fortune, but a token of future calamitie? For it is not sufficient to behold that, which wee haue before our eyes; wisdom pondereth the euent of things, & this mutabilitie on both sides maketh the threatens of fortune not to be feared, nor her flatterings to be desired. Finally, thou must take in good part, whatsoeuer happeneth vnto thee within the reach of  
E fortune,

fortune, when once thou hast submitted thy necke to her yoke. And if to her, whom of thine owne accord, thou hast chosen for thy Mistresse, thou wouldest prescribe a Law, how long shee were to stay, and when to depart, shouldest thou not doe her mightie wrong, and with thy impatiencie make thy estate more intollerable, which thou canst not better? If thou settest vp thy sayles to the wind, thou shalt be caried not whether thy will desireth, but whether the Gale driueth. If thou sowest thy seed, thou considerest, that there are as well barren, as fertile yeeres. Thou hast yeelded thy selfe to fortunes sway, thou must bee content with the conditions of thy mistresse. Endeourest thou to stay the force of the turning wheele? But thou  
foolish-



foolishest man, that euer was, if it beginneth to stay, it ceaseth to be fortune.

## THE I. VERSE.

Phylosophy describeth the conditions of fortune.

**T**He pride of fickle fortune spareth none,  
But like the floods of swift <sup>a</sup> Euripus borne,  
Ofte casteth mightie Princes from their throne,  
And ofte the abiect Captiue doeth adorne.  
Shee cares not for the wretches teares and mone,  
And the sad groines, which she hath caus'd, doeth skorne  
Thus doth shee play, to make her power more knowne,  
Shewing great wonders, when mans fickle state  
One houre, haplesse doeth see, and fortunate.

<sup>a</sup> An arme of the Sea betwixt Phocides in Bæotia, and the Ile Eubæa, which ebbs and flows so swiftly 7. times in a day, that it carrieth ships against the wind, yea the very wind it selfe  
*Plin. lib. 2.*

## THE II. PROSE.

Fortune sheweth, that shee hath taken nothing from Boetius, that was his.



Vt I would vrge thee a little with Fortunes owne speeches. Wherefore con-

sider thou, if shee asketh not reason.  
For what cause, O man, chargest  
thou mee with daily complaints?  
What iniurie haue I done thee?  
What goods of thine haue I taken  
from thee? Contend with mee be-  
fore any Iudge, about the possession  
of riches and dignities: and if thou  
canst shew, that the proprietie of a-  
ny of these things belong to any  
mortall wight, I will forthwith  
willingly graunt, that those things  
which thou demandest, were thine.  
When nature produced thee out of  
thy mothers wombe, I receiued  
thee naked and poore in all respects,  
cheerished thee with my wealth,  
and (which maketh thee now to  
fall out with me) being forward to  
fauour thee, I had most tender care  
for thy education, and adorned thee  
with the abundance & splendour  
of

of all things, which are in my power. Now it pleaseth mee to withdraw my hand, yeeld thanks, as one that hath had the vse, of that which was not his owne. Thou hast no iust cause to complaine, as though thou hadst lost that, which was fully thine owne. VVherefore lamentest thou? I haue offered thee no violence. Riches, honours, and the rest of that sort belong to mee. They acknowledge mee for their Mistresse, and themselves for my seruants, they come with me, and when I goe away, they likewise depart. I may boldly affirme, if those things which thou complainest to betaken from thee, had beene thine owne, thou shouldest neuer haue lost them. Must I onely be forbidden to vse my right? It is lawful for the heauen to bring soorth faire

E 3      dayes.

dayes , and to hide them againe in  
darkeſome nights . It is lawfull for  
the yeere ſometime to compaſſe the  
face of the earth with flowers and  
fruites , and ſometime to couer it  
with clouds & cold . The Sea hath  
right ſometime to fawne with  
calmes , and ſometime to frowne  
with ſtormes and waues . And ſhal  
the vnſatiabable deſire of men tie me  
to conſtancie, ſo contrarie to my  
cuſtome? This is my force , this is  
the ſport , which I continually uſe .  
I turn about my wheele with ſpeed,  
and take a pleaſure to turne things  
vpſide downe; Aſcend, if thou wilt,  
but with this condition , that thou  
thinkeſt it not an iniurie to deſcend,  
when the courſe of my ſport ſore-  
quireth . Diddeſt thou not know  
my faſhion? VVert thou ignorant  
how *Crefus* King of the *Lydians*,  
not

not long before a terrour to <sup>a</sup> *Cyrus*,  
 within a while after came to such  
 miserie, that hee should haue beene  
 burnt, had hee not beene saued by a  
 shower sent from heauen. Hast  
 thou forgotten how <sup>b</sup> *Paul* pyously  
 bewailed the calamities of King  
<sup>c</sup> *Persus* his prisoner? What other  
 thing doeth the out-crie of Trage-  
 dies lament, but that fortune ha-  
 uing no respect, overturneth hap-  
 pie states? Diddest thou not learne  
 in thy youth, that there lay two  
<sup>d</sup> Barrels, th'one of good things, and  
 the other of bad, at *Iupiters* thre-  
 shold? But what if thou hast tasted  
 more abundantly of the good?  
 What if I be not wholly gone from  
 thee? What if this mutabilitie of  
 mine be a iust cause for thee to hope  
 for better? Notwithstanding loole  
 not thy courage, and living in a

<sup>a</sup> King of  
 Persia.

<sup>b</sup> *Paulus*  
*Aemilius*,  
 Consul of  
 Rome.

<sup>c</sup> Or *Perses*  
 King of Ma-  
 cedonia.

<sup>d</sup> This is  
 taken out  
 of *Homer*.  
*Iliad. Sit.*

kingdome which is common to all men, desire not to bee gouerned by peculiar Lawes, proper onely to thy selfe.

THE II. VERSE.

*Fortune complaineth of the vnsatiablen  
desire of men.*

**I**F plentie as much wealth should giue, we're holling back her hand,  
As the fierce winds in troubled Seas doe tosse up heapes of sand,  
Or as the Starres, that Heauenly Orbes in light some nights doe grace:  
Yet wretched men would still accuse their miserable case.  
Should God too lib'ral of his gifts their greediness thus beare,  
And with bright honours them adorne: yet all that nothing were,  
Since ratiuous minds deuouring all for more are ready still,  
What bridle can containe in bounds this their contentlesse will?  
When fill'd with riches they retaine the thirst of hauing more?  
He is not rich, that feares, and grieues, and counts himselfe but poore.

THE III. PROSE.

*Philosophy proueth, that fortune had  
beene more fauourable, then contrarie  
to Boetius.*



Herefore if fortune should  
plead with thee thus in her  
owne defence, doubtlesse  
thou wouldest not haue a word to  
answere

answere her. But if there bee any thing, which thou canst alleadge in thy owne defence, thou must vtter it, wee will giue thee full libertie to speake. Then I said, these things make a faire shew, and being set out with pleasant Rhetoricke and Musicke, delight onely so long as they are heard. But those, which are miserable haue a deeper feeling of their miseries. Therefore, when the sound of these things is past, hidden sorrow oppresseth the mind. It is so indeed, quoth she; for these be not the remedies of thy disease, but certaine fomentations to assuage thy griefe, which as yet resisteth all cure. But when it shall bee time, I will apply that, which shall pierce to the quicke. And yet there is no cause, why thou shouldest thinke thy selfe miserable; Hast thou forgotten, how

how many wayes, and in what degree thou art happie? I passe ouer with silence, that hauing lost thy Father, thou wert prouided for by men of the best sort, and being chosen to haue affinitie with the chiefest of the Citie, thou begandest sooner to be deare vnto them, then to be akinne, which is the most excellent kind of kindred. Who esteemed thee not most happie, hauing so Noble a Father inlaw, so chaste a Wife, and so many Sonnes? I say nothing (for I will not speake of ordinarie matters) of the dignities denied to others in their age, and graunted to thee in thy youth. I desire to come to the top of thy felicitie. If any fruit of mortall things hath any weight of happinesse, can the remembrance of that light bee darkned with any cloud of miseries  
that



that can ouercast thee? VVhen thou sawest thy two Sonnes being both Consuls together caried from their house, the Senatours accompanying them, & the people reioycing with them, when they sitting in the Senate in their Chaires of estate, thou making an Oration in the kings praise, deseruedst the glory of witte and eloquence. When in publike assembly thou hauing beene Consul thy selfe, standing betwixt thy two Sonnes, diddest satisfie with thy triumphant liberalitie, the expectation of the multitudes gathered together. I suppose thou flatteredst fortune, while shee fawned thus vpon thee, and vsed thee, as her dearest friend. Thou obtainedst more at her hands, then euer priuate man had before thee. VVilt thou reckon with fortune? This is the first

first time, that euer shee frowned  
vpon thee. If thou considerest the  
number and measure of thy ioyfull  
and sad accidents, thou canst not  
chuse but thinke thy selfe happie  
still. And if thou esteemest not thy  
selfe fortunate, because those things  
which seemed ioyfull are past, there  
is no cause, why thou shouldest  
thinke thy selfe miserable, since  
those things which thou takest to  
be sorrowfull, doe passe. Commet  
thou now first as a Pilgrime and  
stranger into the Theater of this  
life? Supposhest thou to find any con-  
stancie in humane affaires? Since  
that man himselfe is soone gone:  
for although things subiect to for-  
tune seldome keepe touch in stay-  
ing, yet the end of life is a certaine  
death, euen of that fortune, which  
remaineth. Wherefore what mat-  
ter

ter is it, whether thou by dying  
leauest it, or it forsaketh thee by  
flying?

THE III. VERSE.

Philosophy declareth, how all worldly  
things decay and fade away.

**W**hen Phabus with his Rosie teame  
Sheweth his lightsome beame,  
The dull and darkened Starres retire  
Feelding to greater fire.

When Zephyrus his warmth doth bring,

Sweete Roses decke the spring  
Let noysome Anster blow apace,  
Plants soone will lose their grace.

The Sea hath often quiet stood,

With an unmoued flood;  
And often is turmoyl'd with waues,

When boystrous Boreas raues.

If thus the world neuer long tarie

The same, but often varie:

On fading fortunes then relie,

Trust to those goods that flie.

An everlasting law is made,

That all things borne shall faide.

THE

## THE IIII. PROSE.

*Philosophy proueth, that Boetius is still fortunate, and that no man hath complete happinesse in this life.*



O which I answered, the things, which thou reportest are true, O nurse of all vertues, and I cannot denie the most speedy course of my prosperitie, but this is that, which vexeth me most, when I remember it. For in all aduersitie of fortune, it is the most unhappie kind of misfortune, to haue beene happie. But, quoth shee, thou canst not iustly impute to the things themselues, that thou art punished for thy false opinion. For if this vaine name of casuall felicitie moueth thee, let vs make accompt with how many, and how great things thou aboundest. VVherefore

fore if that, which in all thy reue-  
newes of fortune, thou esteemedst  
most precious, doeth still by Gods  
prouidence remaine safe and vntou-  
ched, canst thou, retaining the best,  
iustly complaine of misfortune? But  
thy Father in-law *Symmachus* (that  
most excellent ornament of man-  
kind) liueth in safetie, and for the  
obtaining of which thou wouldest  
willingly spend thy life, that man  
wholly framed to wisdom and  
vertues, being secure of his owne,  
mourneth for thy iniuries. Thy  
wife liueth, modest in disposition,  
eminent in chastitie, and to rehearse  
briefely all her excellent gifts, like  
her Father. Shee liueth, I say, and  
wearie of her life, reserueth her  
breath onely for thee. In which a-  
lone I must also graunt, that thy fe-  
licitie is diminished, she consumeth  
her

her selfe with teares and grieve for  
thy sake. VVhat should I speake of  
thy children, which haue beene  
Consuls, in whome already, as in  
Children of that age, their Fathers,  
or Grand-fathers good disposition  
appeareth? wherefore since the grea-  
test care, that mortall men haue, is  
to saue their liues, O happie man  
that thou art, if thou knowest thy  
owne wealth, who still hast remai-  
ning those things, which no man  
doubteth to bee dearer then life it  
selfe? And therefore cease weeping.  
Fortune hath not hitherto shewed  
her hatred against you all, neither  
art thou assailed with too boystrous  
a storme, since those Ankers hold  
fast, which permit neither the com-  
fort of the time present, nor the  
hope of the time to come, to bee  
wanting. And I pray God (quoth  
I)

I) that they may hold fast, for so long as they remaine, howsoeuer the world goeth, wee shall escape drowning. But thou seest, how great a part of our ornaments is lost. Wee haue gotten a little ground, (quoth shee) if thy whole estate be not irkesome vnto thee. But I cannot suffer thy daintinesse, who with such lamentation & anxietie complainest, that something is wanting to thy happinesse: For who hath so<sup>a</sup> entire happinesse, that he is not in some part offended with the condition of his estate. The nature of humane felicitie is doubtfull and vncertaine, and is neither euer wholly obtained, or neuer lasteth alwayes. One man hath great reuenewes, but is contemned for his base lineage. Anothers Nobilitie maketh him knowen, but oppressed with penurie,

<sup>a</sup> No man hath entire happinesse.

rie, had rather be vnknownen. Some abounding with both, bewaile their vnfitnesse for mariage. Some other well married, but wanting children, prouideth riches for strangers to inherite. Others finally, hauing children, mournefully bewaile the vices, which their sonnes or daughters are giuen to. So that scarce any man is pleased with the condition of his fortune. For there is something in euery estate, which without experience is not knowen, and being experienced doth molest and trouble. Besides that, those, which are<sup>b</sup> most happie are most sensible, and vnlesse all things fall out to their liking, vnpatient of all aduersitie, every little crosse ouerthrowes them, so small are the occasions, which take from the most fortunate the height of their happinesse.

How

<sup>b</sup> The most  
happie are  
most sensi-  
ble of affli-  
ction.



How many are there thinkest thou, which would thinke themselves almost in heauen, if they had but the least part of the remnants of thy fortune? This very place, which thou callest banishment, is the Countrey of the inhabitants. So true it is, that nothing is miserable, but when it is thought so; and contrariwise, euery<sup>c</sup> estate is happie, if he that beares it, bee content. Who is there so happie, that if he yeeldeth to discontent, desireth not to change his estate? How much bitternesse is mingled with the sweetenesse of mans felicitie, which though it seemeth neuer so pleasant, while it is enjoyed, yet can it not be retained from going away, when it will. And by this it appeareth how miserable the blessednesse of mortall things is, which neither endureth

<sup>c</sup> He that is best contented, is most happy.

d The Center of happiness.

alway with the contented, nor wholly delighteth the pensue. Wherefore O mortall men, why seeke you for your felicitie abroad, which is placed within your selues? Errour and ignorance do confound you. I will briefly shew thee the Center of thy chiefeest happinesse. Is there any thing more precious to thee then thy selfe. I am sure thou wilt say nothing. Wherefore, if thou enioyest thy selfe, thou shalt possesse that, which neither thou wilt euer loose, nor fortune can take away; and that thou mayest acknowledge, that blessednesse cannot consist in these casuall things, gather it thus: If blessednesse be the chiefeest good of nature endewed with reason, and that is not the chiefeest good, which may by any meanes bee taken away, because that,

that, which cannot bee taken away, is better; it is manifest, that the<sup>e</sup> instabilitie of fortune cannot aspire to the obtaining of blessednesse.

• Temporal things cannot make men happye.

Moreouer, hee that nowe enioyeth this brittle felicitie, either knoweth it to bee mutable, or no; if not, what estate can bee blessed by ignorant blindnesse? And if hee knoweth it, hee must needes feare, least hee loose that, which hee doubteth not, may bee lost, wherefore continuall feare permitteeth him not to bee happye. Or doeth hee thinke, that it were to bee neglected, though hee should loose it? But so it were a very small good, which hee would bee content to loose. And because thou art one, whom I know to be fully perswaded, that the soules

of men are in no wise mortall; and  
since it is cleare, that casuall felici-  
tie is ended by the bodies death,  
there is no doubt, if this can cause  
blessednesse, but that all mankind  
fallerh into miserie by death. But  
if we know many who haue sought  
to reape the fruit of blessednesse,  
not onely by death, but also by af-  
flictions and torments; how can  
this present life make men happie,  
the losse of which causeth not mi-  
serie?

THE III. VERSE.

*Philosophy commendeth a meane estate.*

**W**How with an heedfull care  
Will an eternall seare prepare,  
Which cannot be downe cast  
By any force of windie blast.  
And will the floods despise,  
When threatning billowes doe arise.  
He not on hils must stand,


Nor

Nor on the dang'rous sinking sand,  
 For there the winds will threate,  
 And him with furious tempest beate,  
 And here the ground too weake  
 Will with the heauie burthen breake.  
 Flie then the dangerous case  
 Of an vntry'd delightfull place,  
 And thy poore house bestow  
 In stonie places firme and low.  
 For though the winds doe sound,  
 And waues of troubled Seas confound,  
 Yet thou to rest disposed  
 In thy safe lowly vale inclosed,  
 Mayst liue a quiet age,  
 Skorning the Ayres distemp'red rage.

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### THE V. P ROSE.

How riches are neither precious, nor  
 our owne.


 Vt since my reasons beginto  
 sinke into thy mind, I will  
 vse those, which are some-  
 what more forcible. Goe to then,  
 if the gifts of fortune were not brit-  
 tle and momentanie, what is there

<sup>a</sup> Money.

in them, which can either euer bee made your owne, or well weighed and considered seemeth not vile and of no accompt? Are riches either yours, or precious in themselves? What part of them can bee so esteemed of, Gold, or <sup>a</sup> heapes of mony? But these make a fairer shew, when they are spent, then when they are kept. For couetousnesse alway maketh men odious, as liberalitie famous. And if a man cannot haue that, which is given to another, then money is precious, when bestowed vpon others; it is not possessed any longer. But if all the money in the whole world were in one mans custodie, all other men should bee poore. The voice at the same time wholly fillethe the eares of many, but your riches cannot passe to many, except

cept they bee diminished. Which being done, they must needes make them poore, whome they leaue. O skant and poore riches, which neither can bee wholly possessed of many, and come to none without the impouerishment of others. Doeth the glittering of <sup>b</sup> Jewels drawethy eyes after them? But, if there bee any great matter in this shewe, not men but the Jewels shine, which I exceedingly maruaile, that men admire. For what is there wanting life and members, that may iustly seeme beautifull to a nature not onely endewed with life, but also with reason? Which, though by their makers workmanshippe, and their owne varietie they haue some part of basest beautie, yet it is so farre inferior to your excellencie, that it did  
in

<sup>b</sup> Jewels.

c Pleasant  
fields.

2076

in no sort deserue your admiration. Doeth the pleasant prospect of the fields delight you? Why not? For it is a faire portion of the fairest worke. So wee are delighted with a calme Sea, so wee admire the skie, the Starres, the Sunne, and the Moone. Doth any of these belong to thee? Darest thou boast of the beautie, which any of them haue? Art thou adorned with May-flowers? Or doeth thy fertilitie bring forth the fruits of Summer? Why reioycest thou vainely? Why embracest thou outward goods, as if they were thine owne? Fortune wil neuer make those things thine, which by the appointment of nature belong not to thee. The fruits of the earth are appointed for the sustenance of liuing creatures. But if thou wilt onely satisfie want,  
which



which suffiseth nature, there is no cause to require the superfluities of fortune. For nature is contented with little, and if being satisfied, thou wilt ouerlay it with more then needes, that which thou addest, will either become vnpleasant, or hurtfull. But perhaps thou thinkest it a fine thing, to goe decked in gay<sup>d</sup> apparell, which if they make a faire shew, I will admire either the goodnesse of the stuffe, or the inuention of the workman. Or doth the multitude of<sup>e</sup> seruants make thee happie? VVho if they bee vicious, they are a pernicious burthen to thy house, and exceeding troublesome to their Master: and if they bee honest, what shalt thou bee the better for other mens honestie? By all which it is manifestly proued, that none of these goods, which thou  
account-

<sup>d</sup> Apparell.<sup>e</sup> Seruants.

accountest thine are thine indeede. And if there be nothing in the wor-  
thy to be desired, why art thou either  
glad, when thou hast them; or so-  
rie, when thou loosest them? Or  
what is it to thee, if they bee preci-  
ous by nature? For in this respect,  
they would haue pleased thee,  
though they had belonged to o-  
thers. For they are not precious,  
because they are come to be thine,  
but because they seemed precious,  
thou wert desirous to haue them.  
Now, what desire you with so  
much adoe? Perhaps you seeke to  
driue away penurie with plentie.  
But this falleth out quite contrarie,  
for you stand in neede of many sup-  
plies, to furnish your selues with va-  
riety of precious ornaments. And it  
is true, that they which haue<sup>f</sup> much  
neede much, and contrariwise, that  
they

<sup>f</sup> They  
which haue  
much, need  
much.

they neede litle, which measure not their wealth by the superfluitie of ambition, but by the necessitie of nature. Haue you no proper & inward good, that you seeke so much after those things which are outward and separated from you? Is the condition of things so changed, that man, who is deseruedly accounted diuine for the gift of reson, seemeth to haue no other excellency then the possession of a litle household stuffe? All other creatures are content with that they haue of their owne, and you, who in your minds carie the likenesse of God, are content to take the ornamentes of your excellent nature from most base and vile things, neither vnderstand you, what iniurie you doe to your creatour. Hee woulde haue mankinde to excell all earthly things, you

g Man de-  
iecteth him-  
selfe by le-  
uing world-  
ly things.

h Hee is  
worle then  
beasts,  
when hee  
knoweth  
not him-  
selfe.

i Nothing  
can be a-  
dorned  
with the  
ornaments  
of another.

you debase your dignitie vnder eue-  
ry meanest creature. For if it be ma-  
nifest, that the good of euery thing  
is more precious then that, whose  
good it is, since you iudge the vi-  
lest things that can be, to bee your  
goods, you<sup>s</sup> deiect your selues vn-  
der them in your owne estimation;  
which questionlesse commeth not  
vnderferuedly to passe; for this is the  
condition of mans nature, that then  
only it surpasseth other things, when  
it knoweth it selfe; and it is<sup>h</sup> worse  
then beasts, when it is without that  
knowledge. For in other liuing  
creatures the ignorance of them-  
selues is nature, but in men it is vice.  
And how farre doeth this errour of  
yours extend, who thinke, that<sup>i</sup> a-  
ny can bee adorned with the orna-  
ments of another? Which can in no  
wise be. For if any adioyned thing  
seeme

seeme precious, it is that, which is praised, but that which is couered and enwrapped in it, remaineth notwithstanding with the foule basenesse, which it hath of it selfe. Moreouer, I denie that to be good, which hurteth the possessor. Am I deceiued in this? I am sure thou wilt say, no. But<sup>k</sup> riches haue often hurt their possessours, since euery lewdest companion, who are consequently most desirous of that, which is not their owne, thinke themselues most worthy to possesse alone all the Gold, and Iewels in the world. Wherefore thou, who with much perturbation fearest now to be assayed and flaine, if thou hadst entred the path of this life, like a poore passenger, neededst not be afraid, but mightest reioyce and sing euen in the sight of most rauinous

<sup>k</sup> Riches do  
often hurt  
their pos-  
sessours.

rauenous thieues . O excellent hap-  
pinesse of mortall riches , which  
when thou hast gotten , thou hast  
lost thy safetie.

## THE V. VERSE.

Philosophy commendeth the former age,  
which was free from couetousnesse.

**T**Oo much the former age was blest,  
When fields their pleased owners failed not,  
Who with no slouthfull lust oppress  
Broke their long fasts with akornes easly got.  
No wine with honic mixed was,  
Nor did they silke in purple colours sleepe,  
They slept vpon the wholesome grasse,  
And their coole drink did fetch from riners deepe.  
The Pines did hide them with their shade,  
No Merchants through the dang'rous billowes went,  
Nor with desire of gain: full trade  
Their trafficke into foraine Countreyes sent.  
Then no shrill Trumpets did amate  
The minds of Souldiers with their daunting sounds,  
Nor weapons were through deadly hate  
Dy'd with the dreadful bloud of gaping wounds.  
For how could any furie draw  
The mind of man to stirre vp warres in vaine,

When

*When nothing, but fierce wounds he saw,  
And for his blood no recompence should gaine.*

*O that the ancient maners would  
In these our latter happelasse times returne.*

*Now the desire of hauing gold  
Doth like the flaming fires of <sup>a</sup> Aetna burne.*

*Ah who was he, that first did shew  
The heapes of treasure, which the earth did hide,  
And Iewels which lay close below,  
By which he costly dangers did provide.*

<sup>a</sup> A hill in  
Scicily.

## THE VI. PROSE.

*Of dignitie and power.*

**N**OW why should I discourse  
of dignities & power, which  
you not knowing, what  
true dignitie and power meaneth,  
extoll to the skies? And if they light  
vpon wicked men, what fire, though  
the very flames of *Aetna* should  
breake forth, or what diluge can  
cause so great harmes? I suppose  
thou remembrest, how your an-  
cestours by reason of the Consuls ar-

G

rogan-

rogancie, desired to abolish that gouernement, which had beene the beginning of their freedome, who before for the same cause had remooued the gouernment of Kings from their citie. And if sometime, which is very seldome, good men bee preferred to Honours, what other thing can giue contentment in them, but the honesty of those, which haue them? So that vertues are not honoured by dignities, but dignities by vertue. But what is this your soesteemed and excellent power? Consider you not O earthly wights, whom you seeme to excell? For if among Mice thou shouldest see one claime iurisdiction and power to himselfe ouer the rest, to what a laughter would it moue thee? And what, if thou respectest the body, canst thou find more weake then  
man



man, whom euen the biting of little Flies, or the entring of creeping wormes doth often kill? Now, how can any man exercise iurisdiction vpon any other, except onely vpon their bodies, and that, which is inferiour to their bodies, I meane their fortunes? Canst thou euer imperiously impose any thing vpon a free<sup>a</sup> mind? Canst thou remoue a soule settled in firme reason from the quiet state, which it possesseth? When a<sup>b</sup> tyrant thought to compell a certaine free man by torments, to bewray his confederates of a conspiracie attempted against him, hee bit off his tongue and spit it out vpon the tyrants face, by that meanes wisely making those tortures, which the tyrant thought matter of crueltie, to bee to him occasion of vertue. Now, <sup>c</sup>what is there

<sup>a</sup> The mind free.

<sup>b</sup> *Nearchus or Diomedon. Zeno Eleata. See Euseb. lib. 10 de prepar. Evang. & Suidas.*

<sup>c</sup> Whatsoever one can doe to another, another may doe to him.

<sup>d</sup> King of  
Egypt.

<sup>e</sup> *Marcus  
Aurelius Re-  
gulus* a  
Consul of  
Rome.

<sup>f</sup> Dignities  
and power  
often be-  
stowed on  
the worst  
men.

there, that any can enforce vpon another, which he may not bee enforced to sustaine by another? We read, that <sup>d</sup> *Busirides* wont to kill his guesstes, was himselfe slaine by his guest *Hercules*. <sup>e</sup> *Regulus* had layed fetters vpon many *Affricanes* taken in warre, but ere long hee found his owne hands inuironed with his Conquerours chaines. Wherefore thinkest thou the power of that man to bee any thing worth, who cannot hinder another from doing that to him, which hee can doe to another? Moreouer, if <sup>f</sup> dignities and power had any naturall and proper good in them, they would neuer bee bestowed vpon the worst men, for one opposit<sup>e</sup> vs<sup>e</sup>th not to accompanie another. Nature refuseth to haue contraries ioyned. So that, since there is no doubt, but that

that men of the worst sort often enioy dignities, it is also manifest, that they are not naturally good, which follow most naughtie men. Which may worthily bee thought of all fortunes gifts, which are more plentifully bestowed vpon euey lewde companion. Concerning which, I take that also to bee worthy consideration, that no man doubteth him to bee a valiaunt man, in whome hee seeth valour; and it is manifest, that hee, which hath swiftnesse is i swift. So likewise, Musicke maketh Musicians, Physicke Phisitians, and Rethoricke Rhetoricians. For the nature of euey thing doth that, which is proper vnto it, and is not mixed with contrary effectes, but repelleth all opposites. But neither can riches extinguish vnsatiable auarice, nor

power make him master of himselfe, whome vicious lustes keepe chained in strongest fetters. And dignitie bestowed vpon wicked men, doeth not onely not make them worthy, but rather bewrayeth and discoucreth their vnworthinesse. How commeth this to passe? Because you take a pleasure in miscalling things, which is easily refuted by the effecte of the things themselues. Wherefore by right, these things are not to bee called riches, pover or dignitie. Lastly, we may conclude the same of all fortunes, in which it is manifest, there is nothing to bee desired, nothing naturally good, which neither are alway bestowed vpon good men, nor doe make them good, whome they are bestowed vpon.

## THE VI. VERSE.

Philosophy declareth by the example of  
Nero, that dignities or power, doe  
not make men better.

**W**E know what stirres he made,  
Who did the<sup>a</sup> Senate slay, and<sup>b</sup> Rome with  
Who did his<sup>c</sup> brother kill, (fire invade,  
And with his<sup>d</sup> mothers blood his moistned haire did fill,  
Who could without a teare  
Behold her nak't and dead, whose body him did beare.  
Yet his dread power controll'd  
Those people whom the Sun doth in the East behold,  
And those, who doe remaine  
In Westerne lands, or dwell under • Bootes waine,  
And those, whose skinn'es are tann'd  
With Southerne winds, which rost and burne the par-  
What? could this glorious might (ched sand,  
Restraine the furious rage of wicked Neroes spight?  
But oh misbappe most badde,  
Which doth the wicked sword to cruel poyson adde!

• The seven Starres in Vrsa maior, which represent a waine, with seven Oxen, which in old tyme were called Triones, for which cause these Stars are by Bootius called, *Septemgelids iugones*, from whence commeth *Septentrio*, to signifie the North.

<sup>a</sup> Nero killed many of the Senatours without any cause.

<sup>b</sup> He caused Rome to burne for a weeke, that he might conceiue the ouerthrow of Troy.

<sup>c</sup> Britannicus, to reigne alone.

<sup>d</sup> Agrippina.

THE

THE VII. PROSE.

*Of glory.*



HEN I sayde : thou thy selfe knowest, that the ambition of mortall things hath borne as little sway with me as with any, but I desired matter of action, least old age should come vpon mee I had done any thing. To which shee answered : This is the only thing, which is able to entice such<sup>a</sup> minds as being excellently quallified by nature, are not yet fully brought to the perfection of vertues, I meane desire of glorie, and fame of best deserts towards their common wealth, which how slender it is, and voide of all weight, consider this, Thou hast learned by astronomicaall demonstrations, that the

<sup>a</sup> The danger of the most excellent minds.

the compasse of the whole earth compared to the scope of heaven is no bigger then a pinnes point, which is as much to say, as that it hath no bignesse at all. And of this so small a region onely the fourth part is knowne to be inhabited, as *Ptolomæus* proueth. From which fourth part, if thou takest away the seas, and marish grounds, and all other desert places, there will scarcely be left any roome at all for men to inhabit. Wherefore enclosed and shutte vp in this <sup>b</sup> smallest point of that other point, doe you thinke of extending your fame, and enlarging your name? But what great or heroical matter can that glory haue, which is pend vp in so small and narrow bounds? Besides that the little compasse of this small habitation is inhabited by many nations, diffe-

<sup>b</sup> The small-  
ness of  
glory.

<sup>c</sup> In *Sonnis*  
*Scythias.*

<sup>d</sup> A moun-  
taine be-  
twixt *Scy-*  
*thia* and  
*India.*  
<sup>e</sup> People of  
*Asia maior.*

different in language, fashions, and conuersation, to which by reason of the difficulties in traueiling, the diuersitie of speech, and the scarcie of trafficke, not onely the fame of particular men, but euen of cities can hardly come. Finally in the age of *Marcus Tullius*, as he <sup>c</sup>himselfe writeth, the fame of the *Romane* commonwealth had not passed the mountaine <sup>d</sup>*Caucasus*, and yet it was then in the most flourishing estate, fearful euen to the <sup>e</sup>*Parthyans*, and to the rest of the nations about. Seest thou, how streight and narrow that glorie is, which you labour to enlarge & encrease? where the fame of the *Romane* name could not passe, can the glory of a *Romane* man penetrate? Moreouer, the customes and lawes of diuers nations, doe so much differ the one from the other, that



that the same thing, which some commend as laudable, others condemne as deseruing punishment. So that, if a man be delighted with the praise of fame, it is no way conuenient for him to be named in many countreys. Wherefore euery man must be content with that glorie, which he may haue at home, & that noble immortalitie of fame must be comprehended within the compasse of one nation. Now, how many most famous while they liued, are altogether forgotten, for want of writers! Though what doe writings auaille, which perish as well as their authors by continuance and obscuritie of time? But you imagine, that you make your selues immortall, when you cast your eyes vpon future fame. Whereas, if thou weighest attentiuely the infinite

f Glory lasteth not long.

infinite spaces of eternitie; what  
cause hast thou to reioyce at the  
prolonging of thy name? For if we  
compare the stay of one moment  
with ten thousand yeres, since both  
be limited, they haue some propor-  
tion, though it be but very small.  
But this number of yeaes, how oft  
soeuer it bee multiplied, is no way  
comparable to endlesse æternitie.  
For limited things may in some  
sort bee compared among them-  
selues, but that, which is infinite,  
admitteth no comparison at all.  
So that the same of neuer so long  
time, if it be compared with ever-  
lasting æternitie seemeth not little,  
but none at all. But without po-  
pular blasts, and vaine rumours you  
know not how to doe well, and re-  
iecting the excellencie of a good  
conscience and of vertue, you chuse  
to

to be rewarded with others tatling. Heare how pleasantly one iested at this vaine & contemptible arrogancie. For hauing assaulted with reprochfull speeches a certaine fellow, who had falsely taken vpon him the name of a Philosopher, not for the vse of vertue, but for vaine glorie, and hauing added, that now he would know whether hee were a Philosopher or no, by his gentle & patient bearing of iniuries. The other tooke al patiently for a while, and hauing borne his contumely as it were triumphing sayed: Doeſt thou now at length thinke mee a Philosopher? To which he biting-ly replied, I would haue thought thee one, if thou haddest holden thy peace. But what haue excellent men (for of these I speak) who seeke for glorie by vertue, what haue wee  
(I say)

§ The vaine  
of glo-  
ry, euen in  
the opinion  
of Atheists,  
and much  
more of  
Christians.

(I say) to expect by fame after death.  
For if contrarie to our beleefe, men  
s wholly perish, there is no glorie at  
all, since he, to whom it is sayed to  
belong, is no where extant. But if  
a guiltlesse minde freed from earth-  
ly imprisonment, goeth forth with  
to heauen, will shee not despise all  
earthly traffike who enioying hea-  
uen, reioiceth to see her selfe exemp-  
ted from earthly affayres.

## THE VII. VERSE.

*Of the smalnesse and shortnesse of fame.*

**H**E that to honour only seekes to mount,  
And that his chiefeſt end doth count,  
Let him behold the largeneſſe of the ſkyes,  
And on the ſtreight earth caſt his eyes,  
He will deſpiſe the glorie of his name,  
Which cannot fill ſo ſmall a frame.  
Why do proud men ſcorne, that their necks ſhould beare  
That yoke, which euery man muſt weare?  
Though fame through many nations flie along,  
And ſhould be blaz'd by eu'ry tongue,

And

And houses shine with our forefathers stories,  
 Yet death contemnes these stately glories,  
 And summoning both rich and poore to die,  
 Makes the low equall with the high. (preſt,  
 VVho knows, where<sup>a</sup> faithfull Fabrice tones are  
 Where<sup>b</sup> Brutus and<sup>c</sup> ſtrict Cato reſt?  
 A ſlender fame now cauſe their titles vaine  
 In ſome few letters to remaine,  
 Becauſe their famous names in bookes we reade,  
 Come wee by them to know the dead:  
 You dying theſe remembred are by none,  
 Nor any fame can make you knowne.  
 But if you thinke you liue euen after death,  
 Your names borne up with mortall breath:  
 VVhen length of time takes this away likewiſe,  
 A ſecond death ſhall you ſurprize.

<sup>a</sup> A Conſull  
 of Rome,  
 who made  
 warre with  
 Pirrhus  
 King of the  
 Epirotes,  
 by whom  
 hee could  
 not be cor-  
 rupted by  
 bribes, and  
 to whome  
 he ſent one  
 that offered  
 to kill him.  
<sup>b</sup> The firſt

Conſull of Rome, who reuenged Lucrecias rape. <sup>c</sup> A noble Ro-  
 mane, whome nothing could corrupt, *Lucan. Viſtrix cauſa diis placuit,*  
*ſeſſiſſa Catoni,* meaning of Caſar, and Pompey.

## THE VIII. PROSE.

*Aduerſitie more profitable then proſpe-  
 ritie.*



VT leaſt thou ſhouldeſt  
 thinke, that I am at vnpla-  
 cable warre with fortune,  
 there

there is a time, when this thy deceitfull Goddesse deserueth somewhat well of men, to wit, when she declareth her selfe, when shee disco-uereth her face, and sheweth her selfe in her owne colours. Perhaps thou vnderstandest not yet, what I say. I would vtter a wonderfull thing, insomuch as I can scarcely explicate my minde in words. For I thinke, that <sup>a</sup> fortune when shee is opposite is more profitable to men, then when shee is favourable. For in prosperitie shee falsely counterfeith a shew of happinesse, but in aduersitie <sup>b</sup> shee sheweth her selfe truely vnconstant by changing. In that shee decei- ueth, in this she instructeth, in that shee imprisoneth the mindes of men with falsely seeming goods, which they enioy : In this shee set-  
teth

<sup>a</sup> The vti-  
litie of ad-  
uersitie.

<sup>b</sup> Fortune is  
truely  
knowne.

teth them at libertie by discour-  
ing the <sup>c</sup> vncertaintie of them.  
Wherefore in that, thou shalt alway  
see men puffed vp, and wauering,  
and blinded with a selfe conceit of  
themselues: in this thou shalt find  
them <sup>d</sup> sober, settled, and with the  
very exercise of aduersitie, wise. Fi-  
nally, prosperitie with her flatter-  
ings withdraweth men from true  
goodnesse, aduersitie <sup>e</sup> recalleth and  
reclaymeth them many times by  
force, to true happinesse. Doest  
thou esteeme it a small benefite,  
that this rough and harsh fortune  
hath made knowne vnto thee the  
minds of thy faithfull <sup>f</sup> friends?  
Shee hath seuered thy assured from  
thy doubtfull friends; prosperitie at  
her departure tooke away with  
her those, which were hers, and  
left thee thine. How dearly woul-  
dest

<sup>c</sup> The vn-  
certaintie  
of worldly  
things is  
discouered.

<sup>d</sup> Men be-  
come so-  
ber, settled,  
wise.

<sup>e</sup> They are  
drawen by  
force to true  
happinesse.

<sup>f</sup> Faithfull  
friends are  
discerned.

so man is blitish heart

dest thou haue bought this before  
thy fall, and when thou seemedst to  
thy selfe fortunate? Desist from seek-  
ing to recouer thy lost riches, since  
thou hast found friends, the most  
precious treasure in the world.

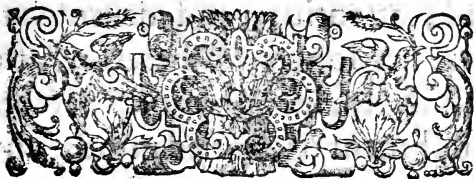
## THE VIII. VERSE.

*Philosophy praiseth true loue and friendship.*

**T**Hat this faire world in settled course her seuerall formes should vary,  
That a perpetuall Law should tame the fighting seedes of things,  
That Phæbus should the rising day in his bright chariot eare,  
That Phæbe should gouerne the nights, which Hesperus forth brings,  
That to the foulds of greedy seas are certaine bounds assign'd,  
Which them, least they usurpe too much vpon the earth, debarre,  
Loue ruling heav'n, and earth, and seas, them in this course doeth bind,  
And if it once let loose their raines, their friendshippe turnes to warre,  
Tearing the world whose ordred forme their quiet motions beare.  
Bye all holy Lawes are mate, and marriage rites are e'd,  
Bye it is faithfull friendshippe soyn'd. How happy mortalls were,  
If that pure loue did guide their minds, which beav'nly Sphaeres doth guide?

THE





THE  
THIRD BOOKE  
OF BOETIUS.

In which Philosophy beginneth to apply more forcible remedies, and treateth of true felicitie.

THE PROSE.

*Philosophy promisetb to explicate true felicitie.*



Though shee had ended her verse, yet the sweetnesse of it made mee remaine astoni-

*Boetius his*

shed, attentiuē, and desirous to heare her longer. Wherefore after a while, I saide. O most effectuall refreshment of wearied minds, how much haue I beene comforted with thy weightie sentences, and pleasing Musicke! Insomuch that I begin to thinke my selfe not vnable to encounter the assaults of fortune. Wherefore I am not now afraid, but rather earnestly desire to know those remedies, which before thou toldest mee were too sharpe. To which shee answered, I perceiued as much, as thou sayest, when I sawe thee hearken to my speeches with so great silence and attention, and I expected this disposition of thy mind, or rather more truely caused it my selfe. For the remedies which remaine are of that sort, that they are bitter to the taste, but being inwardly

wardly receiued waxe sweete. And whereas thou sayest that thou art desirous to heare; how much would this desire encrease, if thou knewest, whether we goe about to bring thee! Whether (quoth I.) To true felicitie (quoth she) which thy mind also dreameth of, but thy sight is so dimmed with phantasies, that thou canst not behold it as it is. Then I beseeched her to explicate without delay, wherein true happinesse consisteth. To which she answered, I will willingly doe So for thy sake, but<sup>a</sup> first I will endeavour to declare that, which is better knowne vnto thee, that hauing thoroughly vnderstood it, by reflecting of the contrary thou maiest discover a glimpse of perfect blessednesse.

<sup>a</sup> True happinesse the better discerned, if the contrary be first explicated.

## THE I. VERSE.

*False felicitie must bee forsaken, that  
true happinesse may be embraced.*

**H**E that a fruitful field will sow,  
Doth first the ground from bushes free,  
All Fearne and Bryers likewise mow,  
That he his Haruest great may see.  
Hone seemes sweeter to our tast,  
If cloy'd with noysome foode it bee.  
Starres clearer shine, when Notus blast  
Hath ceast the rainie stormes to breede.  
When Lucifer hath night defac't,  
The dayes bright horses then succede.  
So thou, whom seeming goods doe feede,  
First shake off yokes, which so thee presse.  
That trueth may then thy mind possesse.

## THE II. PROSE.

*How all men desire happinesse, but many mistake it.*



Hen for a while looking  
stedfast'y vpon the ground,  
and as it were retiring her  
selfe to the most secret seate of her  
soule,

Soule, shee beganne in this maner:

<sup>a</sup> All mens thoughts, which are turmoyled with manifold cares, take indeede diuers courses, but yet endeavour to attaine the same end of happinesse, which is that good, which being once obtained, nothing can be further desired. Which is the chiefeft of al goods, & containeth in it self, whatsoeuer is good, & if it wanted any thing, it could not be the chiefeft, because there would something remaine besides it, which might be wished for. Wherefore it is manifest, that <sup>b</sup> blessednesse is an estate replenished with all that is good. This (as we said) all men endeavour to obtaine by diuers wayes. For there is naturally ingrafted in mens minds an earnest desire of that, which is truely good; but deceitfull error withdraweth

<sup>a</sup> All men  
seeke for  
happinesse.

<sup>b</sup> What it  
is.

<sup>c</sup> Riches.

<sup>d</sup> Honours.

<sup>e</sup> Power.

<sup>f</sup> Fame.

<sup>g</sup> Pleasure.

it to that, which falsely seemeth such. So that some esteeming it their greatest good to want nothing, labour by all meanes to abound with <sup>c</sup> riches : others making more account of <sup>d</sup> honours, hunt after preferments, to be respected by their inferiours. Others think it the greatest felicitie, to <sup>e</sup> haue great power and authoritie, and these will either raigne themselves, or at least procure to be great with Princes. But they who thinke <sup>f</sup> fame better then all these, make all speed possible to spread their names farre and neere, by archieuing some worthy enterprise either in warre or peace. Many measure happinesse by <sup>g</sup> ioy and mirth, and their chiefest care is, how they may abound with pleasure. Some subordinate one of these to the other, as riches to power

power and pleasure, or power to wealth & fame. At these and such other doe mens actions and desires aime, as nobilitie and popularity, which make men esteemed, wife and children, which bring pleasure and delight. For holy friendship is rather to be attributed to vertue, then to fortune. Other things for the most part are desired either for power or pleasure. And it is an easie matter to reduce all corporall goods to the former heades. For strength and greatnesse giue habilitie, beautie and swiftnesse, fame, and health yeeldeth pleasure. By all which wee manifestly seeke for nothing else but happinesse. For that, which euery man seeketh most after, is by him esteemed his greatest good. Which is all one with happinesse. Wherefore he esteemeth  
that

that estate happy, which hee preferreth before al other. And thus thou hast in a maner seene the forme of humane felicitie, riches, honour, power, glorie, pleasure. Which the Epicure onely considering; consequently tooke pleasure for his chiefest good, because all the rest seeme to delight the mind. But I returne to the carefull thoughts of men, whose minds though obscured, yet<sup>h</sup> seeke after the greatest good, but like a drunken man, know not the way home. For, seeme they to erre, who endeavour to want nothing? But nothing can cause happinesse so much, as the plentifull possession of all that is good, needing the helpe of none, but is sufficient of it selfe. Or doe they erre, who take that which is best to bee likewise most worthy of respect?

No.

<sup>h</sup> All agree  
in chusing  
that which  
is good.



No. For it is no vile or contemptible thing, which almost all men labour to obtaine. Or is not power to bee esteemed good? Why then, is that to be accounted feeble and of no force, which manifestly surpasseth all other things? Or is fame to be contemned? But these two cannot be seperated, that the most excellent seeme also most famous. For to what purpose should I say, that happinesse is not sadde or melancholy, or subiect to griefe and trouble, when euen in smallest matters we desire that, which wee delight to haue and enioy? And these be the things, which men desire to obtaine, and to this end procure riches, dignities, kingdoms, glory and pleasures, because by them they thinke to haue sufficiency, respect, power, fame, delight  
and

and ioy. Wherefore that is good, which men seeke after by diuers desires, in which the force of nature is easily descried, since though there be many and different opinions, yet they agree in chusing for their end that which is good.

## THE II. VERSE.

*How nature cannot bee wholly changed.*

**H**ow the strict raines of al things guided are  
By powerfull nature, as the chiefest cause,  
And how shee keepes with a foreseeing care  
The spacious world in order by her lawes,  
And to sure knots, which nothing can untie,  
By her strong hand all earthly motions drawes:  
To shew all this we purpose now to trie  
Our pleasing Verses, and our Musicke sound.  
Although the Lybian Lyons often lie  
Gentle and tame in willing fetters bound,  
And fearing their incensed masters wrath  
With patient lookes endure each blow and wound:  
Yet if their iawes they once in blood doe bathe,  
They gaining courage with fierce noise awake

*Tha*

The force, which nature in them seated hath,  
 And from their neckes the broken chaines doe shake;  
 Then he, that tam'd them first doeth feeble their rage,  
 And torne in pieces doth their furie slake.  
 The bird shut up in an displeasing cage,  
 Which on the loftie trees did lately sing,  
 Though men her want of freedome to asswage,  
 Should unto her with carefull labour bring  
 The sweetest meates, which they can best deuise:  
 Yet when on toppes of houses fluttering  
 The pleasing shadowes of the groues shee spies,  
 Her hated foode shee scatters with her feete,  
 And discontented to the woods shee flies,  
 And their delights to tune her accents sweete.  
 When some streng hand doth tender plant constraîne  
 With his debased top the ground to meete,  
 If it let goe, the crooked twigge againe  
 Vptoward heauen it selfe it streight doth raise.  
 Phæbus doeth fall into the Westerne maine,  
 Yet doeth he backe returne by secret wayes,  
 And to the East doeth guide his chariots race.  
 Each thing a certaine course and lawes obeyes,  
 Striving to turne backe to his proper place;  
 Nor any settled order can be found,  
 But that, which doth within it selfe embrace  
 The birthes and ends of all things in a round.

THE

THE III. PROSE.

*That true happinesse consisteth not  
in riches.*



Ou also (O earthly creatures) thogh slightly & as it were in a dreame acknowledge your beginning, and though not perspicuously yet in some sort behold that true end of happinesse, so that the intention of nature leadeth you to the true good, and manifold errour withdraweth you from it. For consider, whether those things, by which men thinke to obtaine happinesse, can bring them to their desired end. For if either money, or honour, or any of the rest be of that qualitie, that they want nothing which is good, we will also confesse, that they are able to make men happy. But if they nei-  
ther

ther be able to performe that they promise, and want many things which are good, are they not manifestly discovered to haue a false appearance of happinesse? First then, I aske thee thy selfe, who not long since diddest abound with wealth; In that plenty of riches, was thy minde neuer troubled with any injuries? I cannot remember (quoth I.) that euer my mind was so free from trouble, but that something or other still vexed me. Was it not, because thou either wantedst something, which thou woulddest haue had, or else haddest something which thou wouldest haue wanted? It is true (quoth I.) Then thou desiredst the presence of that, and the absence of this, I confesse I did (quoth I.) And doth not a man want that (quoth shee) which hee  
desi-

<sup>a</sup> Riches taketh not away want.

<sup>b</sup> Money cannot defend it selfe, and therefore needeth something to defend it.

desireth. He doth (quoth I.) But he that wanteth any thing, is not altogether sufficient of himselfe. He is not (quoth I.) So that thou felt'st this insufficiencie, euen in the height of thy wealth. Why not (quoth I.) Then <sup>a</sup> riches cannot make a man wanting nothing nor sufficient of himselfe, and this was that they seemed to promise. But this is most of all to be considered, <sup>b</sup> that mony hath nothing of it self, which can keepe it from being taken from them, which possesse it, against their will. I grant (quoth I.) why shouldest thou not grant it, since that euery day those, which are more potent, take it from others perforce? For from whence proceede so many complaints in Law, but that mony gotten either by violence, or deceit is sought to be

be recovered by that meanes? It is so indeed (quoth I.) So that euery man needeth some other helpe to defend his money. Who denies that? (quoth I.) But hee should not neede that helpe, vnlesse he had money, which he might loose. There is no doubt of that (quoth I.) Now then the matter is fallen out quite contrary, for riches which are thought to suffice of themselves, rather make men stand in need of other helpes. And after what maner doe riches expell penury? For are not rich men hungry? are they not thirsty? Or doeth much money make the owners senseles of cold in winter? But thou wilt say, wealthy men haue wherewithal to satisfie their hunger, slake their thirst, and defend themselves from cold. But in this sort, though wants may be somewhat relieued

I by

by wealth, yet it cannot altogether betaken away. For if euer gaping and crauing, it bee satiated by riches, there must needs alway remaine something to be satiated. I omitte, that to nature very little, to couetousnesse nothing is sufficient. VVherefore if riches can neither remoue wants, and cause some themselves, why imagine you, that they can cause sufficiency.

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THE III. VERSE.

*How riches afflict their possessours in life, and forsake them in death.*

**A**lthough the rich man from his mines of gold,  
Digge treasure, which his mind can neuer fill,  
And losse: necke with precious Pearles enfold  
And his fatte fields with many Oxen till:  
Yet biting cares will neuer leane his head,  
Nor will his wealth attend him being dead.



THE IIII. PROSE.

That true happinesse consisteth not  
in dignities.

**B**Vt dignities make him honourable and Reuerend, on whome they light. Haue offices that force to plant vertues and expell vices in the minds of those who haue them? But they are not wont to banish, but rather<sup>a</sup> to vphold wickednesse. So that we many times complaine, because most wicked men obtaine them. Whereupon<sup>b</sup> *Catullus* called<sup>c</sup> *Nonius* a scabbe or impostume though he sate in his chaire of estate. Seest thou, what great ignominie dignities heape vpon euill men! For their vnworthinesse would lesse appeare, if they were neuer aduanced to any honours. Could so ma-

<sup>a</sup> Dignities  
vphold wickednesse.

<sup>b</sup> A famous  
Poet of  
Verona.

<sup>c</sup> A wicked  
Romane full  
of vices,  
whose surname was  
*Struma*, as  
appeareth  
in *Plin. lib.*  
*37. nat. Hist.*

<sup>d</sup> Boetius  
refused him

<sup>e</sup> Dignities  
make not  
men re-  
spected.

ny dangers euer make thee beare  
office with <sup>d</sup> *Decoratus* hauing dis-  
couered him to be a very varlet and  
spie? For <sup>e</sup> wee cannot for their ho-  
nours account them worthy of res-  
pect, whome wee iudge vnwor-  
thy of the honours themselues.  
But if thou seest any man endewed  
with wisdom, canst thou esteeme  
him vnworthy of that respect or  
wisdom, which he hath? No true-  
ly. For vertue hath a proper digni-  
tie of her owne, which she present-  
ly endeweth her possessours with-  
all. Which since popular prefer-  
ments cannot doe, it is manifest  
that they haue not the beauty,  
which is proper to true dignitie.  
In which wee are farther to consi-  
der, that if to be contemned of ma-  
ny, make men abiect, whom dig-  
nities cannot make respected, they  
rather

rather make wicked, by laying their defects and ignominy open to the view of the world. But the dignities goe not scot-free, for<sup>f</sup> wicked men do as much for them, defiling them with their infectious diseases. And that thou maist plainly see, that true respect cannot be gotten by these painted dignities, inferre it thus, let<sup>s</sup> one, that hath beene often Consul goe among barbarous nations, will that honour make those barbarous people respect him? And yet, if this were naturall to dignities, they would neuer forsake their function in any nation whatsoeuer; as fire, whersoever it bee, alway remaineth hoate. But because not their owne nature, but the deceitfull opinion of men attributeth that to them, they forthwith come to nothing, being brought to

1 3                      them,

<sup>f</sup> Wicked men defile dignities.

<sup>s</sup> Diuersitie of nations make Dignities contemptible.

<sup>h</sup> Their  
worth de-  
cayes by  
change of  
times.

them, who esteeme them not to be dignities. And this for forraine nations. But doe they<sup>h</sup> alway last among them, where they had their beginning? The Præfect-shippe a great dignitie in time past, is now an idle name, and an heauy burthen of the Senates Censure. If heretofore one had care of the peoples prouision, he was accounted a great man; Now what is more abiect then that office? For as wee saied before, that which hath no proper dignitie belonging vnto it, sometime receiueth, and sometime looseth his value at the vsers discretion. VVherefore if dignities cannot make vs respected, if they be easily defiled with the infection of the wicked, if their worth decaies by change of times, if diuersitie of nations make them

con-

contemptible, what beautie haue they in themselves, or can they afford to others worth the desiring?

THE IIII. VERSE.

*How Nero being most wicked, was in greatest dignitie.*

**T**Hough fierce and lustfull Nero did adorne  
Himself with purple robes, which gems did grace  
He did but gaine a generall hate and scorne:  
Yet by his power he Officers most base,  
Ouer the Ren'rend Senators did place.  
Who would esteeme of fading honours then,  
Which may be giu'n thus by the wickedst men?

THE V. PROSE.

*Of Kings and their favorites.*

**B**Ut can kingdomes and the familiaritie of kings make a man mighty? VVhy not, when their felicity<sup>1</sup> lasteth alwaies?

<sup>1</sup> Kingdomes fall.

But both former and present times are full of examples, that many kings haue changed their happinesse with misery. O excellent power, which is not sufficient to vphold it selfe. And if this strength of kingdomes bee the author of blessednesse, doeth it not diminish happinesse and bring misery, when it is any way defectiue? But though <sup>b</sup> some Empires extend themselves farre, there will still remaine many nations out of their dominions. Now, where their power endeth, which maketh them happy, there entereth the contrary, which maketh them miserable, so that all kings must needs haue lesse happinesse then misery. That <sup>c</sup> tyrant knowing by experience the dangers of his estate, signified the <sup>d</sup> feares incident to a kingdome,

<sup>b</sup> Kingdomes are limited.

<sup>c</sup> *Dyonisius* king of Sicily.

<sup>d</sup> Kingdomes full of feares.

dome, by the hanging of a drawne sword ouer a mans head. VVhat power is this then, which cannot expell nor avoid biting cares and pricking feares? They would willingly haue lined securely, but could not, and yet they brag of their power. Thinkest thou him mighty, whom thou seest desire that, which he cannot doe? Thinkest thou him mighty who dareth not goe without his guard, who feareth others more then they feare him, who cannot seeme mighty, except his seruants please? For what should I speake of kings followers, since I shew, that kingdomes themselues are so full of weakenesse? Whome the power of kings often standing, and many times falling, doth overthrow. *Nero* compelled *Seneca* his familiar friend and Master, to make  
choice

Aurelius  
 Antonius  
 Bassianus,  
 Caracalla  
 slew Papin-  
 ianus a fa-  
 mous Law-  
 yer, and the  
 chiefe man  
 in his Court  
 to whome  
 Severus  
 chiefly com-  
 mended his  
 two sonnes,  
 the cause of  
 his death,  
 was for that  
 he would  
 not excuse  
 the mur-  
 ther of Get-  
 the Emper-  
 ours bro-  
 ther, and of  
 other No-  
 ble men.  
 f Kings fa-  
 uourites  
 cannot with-  
 draw them-  
 selues, when  
 they would.

choice of his owne death. *Anto-*  
*ninus* caused *Papinianus*, who had  
 beene long a gallant courtier, to be  
 cutte in pieces with his souldiers  
 sword. And they would both haue  
 renounced their power, yea *Seneca*  
 endeououred to deliuer vp his riches  
 also to *Nero*, and to giue himselve  
 to a contemplatiue life. But their  
 very greatnesse drawing them to  
 their distruction, neither of them  
 could compasse that, which they  
 desired. Wherefore what power is  
 this, that the possessors feare, which  
 when thou wilt haue, thou art not  
 secure, and when thou<sup>f</sup> wilt leaue,  
 thou canst not avoid. Are wee the  
 better for those friends, which loue  
 vs not for our vertue, but for our  
 prosperity? But whome prosperitie  
 maketh our friend, aduersitie will  
 make our enemy. And what plague  
 is



is able to hurt vs more, then a familiar enemie?

**T H E V . V E R S E .**

*True power consisteth in conquering our  
owne passions.*

**W***Ho would be powerfull, must  
His owne affections checke,  
Nor let foule raynes of lust  
Subdue his conquer'd necke.  
For though the Indian land  
Should tremble at thy becke,  
And though thy dread command  
The farthest parts obey,  
Unlesse thou canst withstand.  
And boldly drive away  
Blacke care and wretched moane  
Thy might is small or none.*

**T H E V I . P R O S E .**

*That true happinesse consisteth  
not in glorie.*



*S for<sup>a</sup> glory, how deceit-  
full is it oftentimes, and  
dishonest? For which  
cause*

<sup>a</sup> glory of-  
ten false.

*O gloria,  
gloria, in fi-  
nissam  
mortalibus  
nullius pretii  
vitam tuam  
fecisti mag-  
nam.*

<sup>b</sup> The vanti-  
tie of true  
glorie.

<sup>c</sup> The smal-  
nesse of it.

cause the Tragicall Poet deseruedly  
exclameth: ὡ δόξα δόξα κυρίοις δὲ βροτῶν ἐλε,  
γερῶσι βίοντων ἄγνωστος μέγαν for many haue  
bin much spoken of by the false opi-  
nions of the common people. Then  
which what can bee imagined  
more vile? For those who are falsely  
commended must needes blush at  
their owne praises. Which though  
they be gotten <sup>b</sup> by deserts, yet what  
adde they to a wise mans consci-  
ence; who measureth his owne  
good, not by popular rumours, but  
by his owne certaine knowledge.  
And if it seemeth a faire thing to  
haue dilated our fame, consequent-  
ly wee must iudge it a foule thing  
not to haue it extended. But since  
as I shewed a litle before, there must  
needes be many <sup>c</sup> nations, to which  
the fame of one man cannot arriue,  
it commeth to passe, that he, whom  
thou

thou esteemest glorious, in the next Countrey seemeth to haue no glory at all. And here now I thinke<sup>d</sup> popular glory not worth the speaking of, which neither proceedeth from iudgment, noreuer hath any firmesse. Likewise, who seeth not, what a vaine and idle thing it is to be called noble? Which, for as much as belongeth to fame, is not our owne. For<sup>e</sup> Nobilitie seemeth to be a certaine praise proceeding from our parents deserts. And if praising causeth fame, they must necessarily be famous, who are praised. Wherefore the fame of others, if thou hast none of thine own, maketh not thee renowned. And if there bee any thing good in nobility, I iudge it only to be this, that it imposeth a necessitie vpon those, which are Noble, not to degenerate from the vertue of their ancestors.

THE

<sup>d</sup> Popular  
glorie.

<sup>e</sup> Nobilitie.

THE VI. VERSE.

*How all, but wicked men, are noble.*

**T**He gen'rall race of men from alike birth is borne,  
 All things one father haue, who doeth them all adorne,  
 Who gaue the Sunne his rayes, and the pale Moone her horne  
 The loftie heauen for Starres, low earth for mortals chose;  
 He soules<sup>a</sup> fetcht downe from high in bodies did enclose;  
 And thus from noble birth all men did first compse.  
 Why bragge you of your stocke? since none is counted base,  
 If you consider God the authour of your race,  
 But he, that with foule Vice doeth his owne birth deface.

<sup>a</sup> Here Boetius spea-  
 keth according to the  
 opinion of  
 Platonists,

who thought, that the soules were created in heauen, but the truth is  
 that they are created in the bodies, so soone as they are ready for life.

THE VII. PROSE.

*That true happinesse consisteth not  
 in pleasure.*



**N**O W what should I speake  
 of bodily pleasure, the de-  
 fire of which is full of anxi-  
 etie, & the enioying of them breeds  
 repentance? How many diseases,  
 how intollerable griefes bring they  
 forth in the bodies of their posses-  
 sors,

sors, as it were the fruites of their wickednesse? I know not what sweetnesse their motions haue, but whosoever will remember his lusts, shall vnderstand, that the end of pleasure is sadnesse. Which if it be able to cause happinesse, there is no reason, why beasts should not be thought blessed, whose whole intention is bent to supply their corporall wants. That pleasure, which proceedeth from wife and children is most honest; but it was too naturally spoken, that (I knowe not whome) found his children his tormentors, whose condicion, whatsoeuer it be, how biting it is, I neede not tell thee, who hast had experience heeretofore, and art not now free from care. In which I approue the opinion of *Euripides*, who said that they, which haue no children

children, are happy by being vnfortunate.

## THE VII. VERSE.

*That there is no pleasure without paine.*

**A**ll pleasure hath this property,  
 Shee woundeth those, who haue her most;  
 And like vnto the angrie Bee,  
 Who hath her pleasant home lost.  
 Shee flies away with nimble wing,  
 And in our hearts doeth leave her sting.

## THE VIII. PROSE.

*How all temporal goods are mixed with euill, and are small in themselves.*

**W**herefore there is no doubt,  
 but that these waies to  
 happinesse, are onely cer-  
 taine by-pathes, which can neuer  
 bring any man thether, whether  
 they promise to leade him. And  
 with

how great euills they are besette,  
I will briefly shew. For what?  
wilt thou endeuour to gather <sup>a</sup> mo-  
ney? but thou shalt take it away  
from him, who hath it. Wilt thou  
excell in <sup>b</sup> dignities? Thou shalt  
crouche to the giuer, and thou,  
who desirest to surpasse others in  
honour, shalt become vile by thy  
basenesse in begging. Wilt thou  
for <sup>c</sup> power? Thou shalt be in dan-  
ger of thy subiects treacheries. See-  
kest thou for <sup>d</sup> glory? But drawne  
into many difficulties, thou shalt  
loose thy safety. Wilt thou liue a  
<sup>e</sup> voluptuous life? But who would  
not dispise and neglect the seruice  
of so vile and base a thing, as his  
body? Now they, who boast of  
the <sup>f</sup> habilities of their body, vpon  
how vnstedfast a possession doe  
they ground themselves? For can

<sup>a</sup> Money.

<sup>b</sup> Dignities.

<sup>c</sup> Power.

<sup>d</sup> Glory.

<sup>e</sup> Pleasure.

<sup>f</sup> Habillities of the body.

K

you

you bee bigger then Elephants, or stronger then Bulls? Or swifter then Tygers? looke vpon the space, firmesse and speedy motion of the heauens, and cease at length to haue in admiration these base things. Which heauens are not more to be admired for these quallities, then for the maner of their gouernement. As for the glittering of<sup>g</sup> beautie, how soone and swiftly doeth it vanish away? As suddenly decaying and changing as the traile flowers in the spring. And if, as *Aristotle* sayeth, men had<sup>h</sup> *Lynxes* eyes, that they could see through stone walles, would they not iudge that body of<sup>i</sup> *Alcibiades* seeming outwardly most faire, to be most foule and vgly by discovering his entrailes? VVherefore not thy nature, but the weaknesse of the beholders eyes

<sup>g</sup> Beautie.

<sup>h</sup> The beast Lynx hath the quickest sight of any beast. *Plin. lib 32. Hist. nat. cap. 8.* There was also a man caled Lynceus, who did see through wals &c.

*Apollonius in Argonauticis, &c.*

<sup>i</sup> A noble Captaine of Athens.



eyes maketh thee seeme faire. But esteeme the goods of the body as much as you will, so that you acknowledge this, that whatsoever you admire, may be dissolued with the burning of an Ague of three dayes. Out of all which, wee may briefly collect this summe; that these goods, which can neither performe that they promise, nor are perfect by hauing all that is good, doe neyther, as so many pathes, leade men to happinesse, nor make men happy of themselves.

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THE VIII. VERSE.

*How men are wise in seeking for things of little value, and foolish in finding out their soueraigne good.*

**A** *Las, how ignorance makes wretches stray out of the way!*

## Boetius his

*You from greene trees expect no golden mines,  
nor pearles from vines.*

*Nor vse you on mountaines to lay your net,  
fishes to get.*

*Nor, if the pleasant sport of hunting please,  
runne you to seas.*

*Men will be skilfull in the hidden caues  
of th' Ocean waues.*

*And in what coasts the orient pearles are bred,  
or purple red.*

*Also, what different sorts of fishes store  
each severall shore.*

*But when they come their chiefest good to find,  
then are they blind.*

*And search for that under the earth, which lies  
aboue the skies.*

*How should I curse these fooles? Let thirst them hold  
of fame and gold,*

*That hauing got false goods with payne, they learne  
True to discern.*

---

## THE IX. PROSE.

*Why true felicitie cannot consist in tem-  
porall things.*



*Et it suffice, that wee haue  
hether to discovered the  
forme of false felicitie,  
which*

which if thou hast plainly seene, order now requireth, that we shew thee, in what true happinesse consisteth. I see (quoth I) that neither sufficiencie by riches, nor power by kingdomes, nor respect by dignities, nor renowme by glory, nor ioy can be gotten by plesures. Hast thou also vnderstood the causes, why it is so? Me thinke I haue a little glimpse of them, but I had rather thou wouldest declare them more plainly. The reason is manifest, for that, which is simple and vndeuided of it selfe, is deuided by mens error, and is translated from true and perfect to false and vnperfect. Thinkest thou, that, which needeth nothing, to stand in need of power. No (quoth I.) Thou sayest well, for if any power in any respect bee weake, in this it must necessarily

K 3      stand

stand in need of the helpe of others. It is true (quoth I.) Wherefore sufficiencie and power haue one and the same nature. So it seemeth. Now thinkest thou, hat, which is of this sort ought to bee despised, or rather that it is worthy to be respected aboue all other things? There can bee no doubt of this (quoth I.) Let vs adde respect then to sufficiencie and power, so that wee iudge these three to bee one. We must adde it, if we will confesse the truth. What now (quoth she) thinkest thou this to be obscure and base, or rather most excellent and famous? Consider whether, that, which thou hast granted to want nothing, to bee most potent, and most worthy of Honour, may seeme to want fame, which it cannot yeeld it selfe, and for that cause  
be

be in some respect more abiect. I must needs confesse (quoth I.) That it is also most famous. Consequently then wee must acknowledge, that same differeth nothing from the former three. VVe must so (quoth I.) VVherefore that which wanteth nothing, which can performe al things by his owne power, which is famous and respected, is it not manifest that it is also most pleasant? To which I answered, how such a man should fall into any grieve, I can by no meanes imagine. Wherefore if that, which wee haue said hitherto be true, wee must needs confesse, that he is most ioyfull and content. And by the same reason it followeth that<sup>a</sup> sufficiencie, power, fame, respect, pleasure haue indeede diuers names, but differ not in substance. It follow-

<sup>a</sup> Sufficiencie, power, fame, respect and pleasure are all but one and the same thing

b He that  
diuideth  
them, bath  
none of  
them.

eth indeed (quoth I.) This then,  
which is one and simple by nature,  
mans wickednesse deuideth, and  
while he endeuoureth to obtaine  
part of that, which hath no partes,  
he neither<sup>b</sup> getteth a part, which is  
none, nor the whole, which he see-  
keth not after. How is this? (quoth  
I.) Hee who seeketh after riches  
(quoth she) to avoid want, taketh  
no thought for power, hee had ra-  
ther be base and obscure, he depri-  
ueth himselfe euen of many natu-  
rall pleasures, that he may not loose  
the money, which he hath gotten.  
But by this meanes he attaineth  
not to sufficiencie, whom power  
forsaketh, whom trouble molest-  
teth, whom basenesse maketh ab-  
iect, whom obscuritie ouerwhel-  
meth. Againe, he that onely desi-  
reth power, consumeth wealth, des-  
p<sup>r</sup> seeth

piseth pleasures, and setteth light by honour or glory, which is not potent. But thou seest how many things are wanting to this man also. For sometimes he wanteth necessities, and is perplexed with anxieties, and being not able to ridde himselfe, ceaseth to be powerfull, which was the thing he onely ay-med at. The like discourse may be made of honours, glory, pleasures. For since euery one of these things is the same with the rest, whosoever seeketh for any of them without the rest, obtaineth not that, which hee desireth. V What then? (quoth I) If one should desire to haue them altogether, he should wish for the summe of happinesse, but shall hee find it in these things, which wee haue shewed cannot performe what they promise? No (quoth I) where-

wherefore we must by no meanes  
 seeke for happinesse in these things,  
 which are thought to afford the se-  
 uerall portions of that, which is to  
 be desired. I confesse it (quoth I)  
 and nothing can be more true then  
 this. Now then (quoth she) thou  
 hast both the forme and causes of  
 false felicitie, cast but the eyes of thy  
 minde on the contrary, and thou  
 shalt presently espie the true happi-  
 nesse, which we promised to shew  
 thee. This (quoth I) is euident, e-  
 uen to him that is blind, and thou  
 shewedst it a little before, while  
 thou endeouoredst to lay open the  
 causes of the false. For, if I bee not  
 deceiued, <sup>c</sup> that is true and perfect  
 happinesse, which maketh a man  
 sufficient, potent, respected, famous,  
 ioyfull. And that thou maist know  
 that I vnderstood thee aright, that  
 which

<sup>c</sup> Wherein  
 true happi-  
 nesse con-  
 sisteth.



which can truely performe any one of these because they are all one, I acknowledge without all doubt to be full and perfect happinesse. O my scholler, I thinke thee happy by hauing this opinion, if thou addest this also. What? (quoth I.) Doeſt thou imagine that there is<sup>d</sup> any mortall or fraile thing, which can cause this happy estate? I doe not (quoth I) and that hath beene ſo proued by thee, that more cannot be deſired. Wherefore theſe things ſeeme to afford men the images of the true good, or certaine vnperfect goods, but they cannot giue them the true and perfect good it ſelfe. I am of the ſame mind (quoth I.) Now then ſince thou knoweſt, wherein true happinesse conſiſteth, and what haue onely a falſe ſhew of it, it remaineth

<sup>d</sup> No mortall thing can cauſe true happinesse.

neth that thou shouldest learne, where thou maiest seeke for this which is true. This is that (quoth I) which I haue long earnestly expected. But since as Plato teacheth (in Timæo) we must implore Gods assistance even in our least affaires, what thinkest thou, must wee doe now, that we may deserue to find the seat of that Soueraigne good? we must (quoth I) inuocate the father of all things, without whose remembrance no beginning hath a good foundation. Thou sayest rightly (quoth shee) and withall sung in this sort.

THE IX. VERSE.

*Phylosophy craueth Gods assistance for the discovery of true happinesse.*

**O** Thou, that dost the world in lasting order guide,  
 Father of heauen & earth, who mak'st time swiftly  
 And standing stil thyselfe yet fram'st all moving laws. (slide,  
 Who to thy worke wert mou'd by no externall cause:

But

But by a sweete desire, where enuie hath no place,  
 Thy goodnesse mouing thee to giue each thing his grace.  
 Thou doest all creature: formes from highest patterne take,  
 From thy faire mind, the world faire like thy selfe dost make.  
 Thus thou perfect the whole, perfect each part dost frame.  
 Thou temp'rest elements, making cold mixe with flame,  
 And drie things ioyne with moist, least fire away should flie,  
 Or earth opprest with weight, buried too low should lie.  
 Thou in <sup>a</sup> consenting parts fityly disposed hast  
 Th' all mouing <sup>b</sup> soule in <sup>c</sup> midst of threefold nature plac't,  
 Which <sup>d</sup> cut in seuerall parts, that runne a diff'rent race,  
 Into it <sup>e</sup> selfe returnes, and circling doth embrace  
 The <sup>f</sup> highest mind, & heau'n with <sup>g</sup> like proportion driues.  
 Thou also with like cause <sup>h</sup> dost make the soules, & <sup>i</sup> lesser  
 And <sup>k</sup> those in <sup>l</sup> charyots beare, and fityly them inspire (Iuses  
 Into the heauen and earth, which with returning <sup>m</sup> fire  
 Goe backe againe to thee their authour and their end.  
 Deare Father let my mind thy glorious seat ascend,  
 Let me behold the spring of grace and find thy light,  
 That I on thee may fixe my soules well cleared sight  
 Cast off the earthly weight, wherewith I am opprest,  
 Shine as thou art most bright, thou onely calme and rest  
 To pious men, whose end is to behold thy ray,  
 VVho their beginning art, their guide, their bound, and way.  
 pointment. <sup>h</sup> Of men. <sup>i</sup> Of beasts, &c. <sup>k</sup> The soules of men.  
<sup>l</sup> In starres according to the Platonists. <sup>m</sup> Of loue and charity.

<sup>a</sup> The different orbes of heauen.  
<sup>b</sup> The Angel, which moueth the heauens.  
<sup>c</sup> Betwixt God, and men.  
<sup>d</sup> Diuided into different motions of diuers heauens.  
<sup>e</sup> Knowing himselfe.  
<sup>f</sup> And likewise God.  
<sup>g</sup> Mouing the heauens according to Gods ap-

## THE X. PROSE.

That there is some true happinesse, and where it is to be found.



Herefore since thou hast seene what is the forme of perfect & vnperfect good,  
 now

now I think we must shew in what this perfection of happinesse is placed. And enquire first, whether there can bee any such good, extant in the world, as thou hast defined, least contrary to the truth, wee bee deceiued with an empty shew of knowledge. But it cannot bee denied, that there is some such thing, which is as it were the fountaine of all goodnesse. For all, that is said to be imperfect, is so tearmed for the want, it hath of perfection. Whence it followeth, that if in any kind we find something vnperfect, there must needs be something perfect also in the same kind. For if we take away perfection we cannot deuise, how there should be any imperfection. For the nature of things began not from that which is defectiue and not compleate, but  
pro-

proceeding from entire & absolute, falleth into that which is extreame and consumed. And if, as wee shewed before, there bee a certaine imperfect felicitie, of fraile goods, it cannot bee doubted, but that there is some solide and perfect happinesse also. Thou hast (quoth I) concluded most firmly and most truely. Now where this good dwelleth (quoth shee) consider this. The common conceit of mens minds proueth, that God the Prince of all things is good. For since nothing can be imagined better then God, who doubteth but that is good, then which is nothing better? And reason doeth in such sort demonstrate God to bee good, that it conuinceth him to bee <sup>a</sup> perfectly good. For vnlesse hee were so, hee could not bee the chiefe  
of

<sup>a</sup> God is perfectly good.

of all things. For there would bee something better then hee, hauing perfect goodnesse, which could seeme to be more auncient and of longer continuance then he. For it is already manifest, that perfect things were before the imperfect. Wherefore, least our reason should haue no end, we must confesse, that the Soueraigne God is most full of Soueraigne and perfect goodnesse. But we haue concluded, that perfect goodnesse is true happinesse, wherefore<sup>b</sup> true happinesse must necessarily be placed in the most high god. I agree (quoth I) neither can this be any way contradicted.

<sup>b</sup> True happinesse placed in God,

But I pray thee (quoth shee) see how holily and inuiolably thou approuest that, which we said, that the soueraigne God is most full of soueraigne goodnesse. How?  
(quoth

( quoth I.) That thou presumest not, that this Father of all things, hath eyther <sup>c</sup> receyued from others, that soueraigne good, with which he is said to be replenished, or hath it naturally in such sort, that thou shouldest thinke, that the substance of the blessednesse, which is had, and of God who hath it, Were diuers. For if thou thinkest, that hee had it from others, thou mayest also inferre, that hee who gaue it, was better then the receiuer. But wee most worthily confesse, that hee is the most excellent of all things. And if he hath it by nature, but as a diuerse <sup>d</sup> thing, since wee speake of God the Prince of all things, let him that can, inuent, who vnited these diuerse things. Finally, that which is different from any thing, is not that, from which it is

<sup>c</sup> God hath not receiued his goodnesse from any other.

<sup>d</sup> Gods goodnesse is himself.

vnderstood to differ. VVherefore that, which is naturally different from the Soueraigne good, is not the Soueraigne good it selfe. VVhich it were impious to thinke of God, then whom, we know certainly, nothing is better. For doubtlesse, the nature of nothing can be better, then the beginning of it. VVherefore I may most truely conclude, that, which is the beginning of all things, to bee also in his owne substance, the chiefeſt good. Most rightly: (quoth I.) But it is granted, that the chiefeſt good is happineſſe. It is, (quoth I.) VVherefore (quoth ſhe) we muſt needs confeſſe, that our happineſſe it ſelfe is God. I can neither contradiſt, (quoth I) thy former propoſitions, and I ſee this illation followeth from them. Conſider (ſayeth ſhe)

if



if the same be not more firmly proued hence, because there<sup>e</sup> cannot be two chiefe goods the one different from the other. For it is manifest that of those goods, which differ, the one is not the other, wherefore neither of them can bee perfect, wanting the other. But manifestly that which is not perfect, is not the chiefe, wherefore the chiefe goodes cannot bee diuers. Now wee haue proued that both blessednesse and God are the chiefe good, wherefore that must needs be the highest happinesse, which is the highest Diuinitie. There can be nothing (quoth I) concluded, more truely in the thing it selfe, nor more firmly in arguing, nor more worthy God himselfe. Vpon this then (quoth she) as the *Geometricians* are wont, out of their propositions, which

<sup>e</sup> There cannot bee two soueraigne goods

they haue demonstrated to inferre something, which they call *πορισματα* so will I giue thee as it were a *Corollarium*. For since that men are made blessed by the obtaining of blessednesse, and blessednesse is nothing else but Diuinitie, it is manifest that men are made happy by the obtaining of Diuinity. And as men are made iust by the obtaining of iustice, and wise by the obtaining of wisdom, so they who obtaine Diuinitie, must needs in like maner become Gods. Wherefore euery one that is happy is a God, but by nature there is onely one God, but there may bee many by<sup>f</sup> participation. This is (quoth I) an excellent and pretious *πορισμα* or *Corollarium*. But there is nothing more excellent then that, which reason perswaded vs to adde. What (quoth I) since (quoth

<sup>f</sup> Men become Gods by participation.

(quoth shee) blessednesse seemeth to containe many things, whether they all concurre as diuers partes to the composition of one entire body of happinesse, or some one of them doeth accomplish the substance of blessednesse, to which the rest are to be referred. I desire (quoth I) that thou wouldest declare this point, by the enumeration of the particulars. Doe we not thinke (quoth she) that happinesse is good? yea the chiefest good, (quoth I.) Thou maiest (quoth shee) adde this to them all. For happinesse is accounted the chiefest sufficiencie, the chiefest power, respect, fame, and pleasure. What then? are all these, sufficiencie, power and the rest as it were certaine members of blessednesse, or rather are they referred to good as to the head? I vnderstand (quoth I)

what thou propolest, but I desire to heare what thou concludest. This is the decision of this matter. If all these were members of blessednesse, they should differ one from another. For this is the nature of parts, that being diuers they compose one body. But wee haue proued, that all these are one, and the same thing. Wherefore they are no members, otherwise happinesse should be compacted of one member, which cannot bee. There is no doubt of this (quoth I) but I expect that which is behind. It is manifest that the rest are referred to goodnesse; for sufficiency is desired, because it is esteemed good, and likewise power, because that likewise is thought to be good; And we may coniecture the same of respect, fame and pleasure. Wherefore goodnesse is the summe and  
cause

∴ Goodnesse  
is the sum  
and cause  
of all that is  
desired.

cause of all that is desired. For that which is neither good indeed, nor beareth any shew of goodnesse, can by no meanes be sought after. And contrariwise those things, which are not good of their owne nature, yet if they seeme such, are desired as if they were truly good. So that the summe, origen, and cause of all that is sought after, is rightly thought to be goodnesse. And that seemeth chiefly to be wished for, which is the cause, that other things are desired. As if one would ride for his health, he doth not so much desire the motion of riding, as the effect of health. Wherefore since all things are desired in respect of goodnesse, they are not so much wished for, as goodnesse it selfe. But we graunted that to be happinesse, for which other things are desired, wherefore in

<sup>h</sup> goodnesse  
and happi-  
nesse al one

<sup>i</sup> The sub-  
stance of  
God consisteth  
in  
goodnesse.

like manner onely blessednesse is sought after. by which it plainly appeareth, that <sup>h</sup> goodnesse and happinesse haue one and the selfe-same substance. I see not how any man can dissent. But wee haue shewed that God and true blessednesse are one and the selfe-same thing. It is so (quoth I) we may then securely conclude, that the <sup>i</sup> substance of God consisteth in nothing else, but in goodnesse.

## THE X. VERSE.

*Phylosophy exhorteth men to embrace true happinesse.*

**C**ome hither all you, that are bound,  
Whose base and earthly minds are drown'd  
By lust, which doeth them tye in cruell chaynes:  
Here is a seat for men oppress'd,  
Here is a port of pleasant rest;  
Here may a wretch haue refuge from his paynes.  
No gold, which <sup>a</sup> Tagus sands bestow,

<sup>a</sup> A riuer in  
Portugal or  
Spaine.

*Nor*

Nor which on <sup>b</sup> Hermus bankes doth flow,  
 Nor precious stones, which scorched Indians get,  
 Can cleare the sharpenesse of the mind,  
 But rather make it farre more blind.  
 And is in farther depth of darkenesse set.  
 For this that sets our soules on worke  
 Buried in caues of earth doth lurke.  
 But heauen is guided by another light,  
 Which causeth vs to shunne the dark,  
 And who this light doth truely marke,  
 Must needs deny, that Phœbus beames are bright.

<sup>b</sup> A riuer in  
 Lydia.

## THE XI. PROSE.

That goodnesse is the end of all things.



Consent (quoth I) for all  
 is grounded vpon most  
 firme reasons. But what  
 account wilt thou make  
 (quoth she) to know what good-  
 nesse it selfe is. I will esteeme it in-  
 finitely, (quoth I) because by this  
 meanes I shall come to know God  
 also, who is nothing else but good-  
 nesse. I will conclude this (quoth  
 she)

ſhee ) moſt certainly , if thoſe things be not denied , which I haue already proued . They ſhall not ( quoth I . ) Haue wee not proued ( quoth ſhee ) that thoſe things , which are deſired of many , are not true and perfect goods , becauſe they differ one from another , and being ſeparated , cannot cauſe complete , and abſolute goodneſſe , which is only found , when they are vnited as it were into one forme and cauſality , that the ſame may be ſufficiencie , power , reſpect , fame , and pleaſure ? And except they be all one and the ſame thing , that they haue nothing worth the deſiring ? It hath bin proued ( quoth I ) neither can it be any way doubted of . Thoſe things then , which when they differ , are not good , and when they are one , become good , are they  
not



not made good by obtayning vni-  
tie? some thinke ( quoth I.) But  
doest thou grant that all , that is  
good, is good by pertaking good-  
nesse? It is so. Thou mayest graunt  
then likewise , that <sup>a</sup> vnitie and  
goodnesse are the same. For those  
things haue the same substance,  
which naturally haue not diuers ef-  
fects. I cannot denie it, (quoth I.)  
Knowest thou then ( quoth shee)  
that <sup>b</sup> euery thing that is, doth so  
long remaine and subsist , as it is  
one, and perisheth and is dissolued,  
so soone as it ceaseth to bee one.  
How ? As in liuing creatures,  
(quoth she) so long as the body and  
the soule remaine vnited , the liuing  
creature remaineth. But when this  
vnity is disolued by their seperation,  
it is manifest that it perisheth, and is  
no longer a liuing creature. The  
body

<sup>a</sup> Vnity and  
goodnesse  
the same.

<sup>b</sup> Euery  
thing conti-  
nueth onely  
so long, as it  
is one.

body also it selfe, so long as it remaineth in one forme by the coniunction of the parts there appeareth the likenesse of a man. But if the members of the body being seperated and sundred, haue lost their vnitie, it is no longer the same. And in like maner it will bee manifest to him that will descend to other particulars, that euery thing continueth so long as it is one, and perisheth when it looseth vnitie. Considering more particulars, I find it to bee no otherwise. Is there<sup>c</sup> any thing (quoth she) that in the course of nature, leauing the desire of being, seeketh to come to destruction & corruption? If (quoth I) I consider liuing creatures, which haue any nature to will and to nill, I find nothing, that without externe compulsion, forsake the intétion to remain, and

<sup>c</sup> All things  
desire to be.

and of their owne accord hasten to  
distruction. For euery liuing creature  
laboureth to preserue his health, and  
escheweth death and detriment. But  
what I should thinke of hearbs, and  
trees, and of all things without life,  
I am altogether doubtfull. But there  
is no cause why thou shouldest  
doubt of this, if thou considerest  
first, that hearbs and trees grow in  
places agreeable to their nature,  
where so much as their constitu-  
tion permitteth, they cannot  
soone wither and perish. For  
some grow in fields, other vppon  
hills, some in fennie, other in stonie  
places, and the barren sands are  
fertile for some, which if thou  
wouldest transplant into other  
places, they dye. But nature  
giueth euery one that which is  
fitting, and striueth to keepethem  
from

from decaying so long as they can remaine. What should I tell thee, if all of them, as it were thrusting their head into the ground, draw nourishment by their rootes, and convey substance and barke by the inward pith? VVhat, that alway the softest, as the pith is placed within, and is couered with more firme wood, and last of all the bark is exposed to the weather, as being best able to beare it off: And how great is the diligence of nature, that all things may continue by the multiplication of seede; all which who knoweth not to bee, as it were certaine engines, not onely to remaine for a time, but successiue in a manner to endure for ever. Those things also which are without all life, doth not euery one inlike maner desire that, which appertaineth to their  
owne

owne good? For why doth leuitie lift vp flames, or heauinesse weigh downe the earth, but because these places and motions are conuenient for them? And that which is agreeable to euery thing, conserueth it, as that which is opposite, causeth corruption. Likewise those things which are hard, as stones, sticke most firmly to their parts, & make great resistance to any dissolution. And liquid things, as ayer and water, are indeed easily deuided, but doe easily also ioyne againe. And fire flyeth all deuision. Neither doe we now treat of the voluntary motions of the vnderstanding soule, but onely of naturall operations. Of which sort is, to digest that, which wee haue eaten, without thinking of it, to breath in our sleepe not thinking what wee doe.

For

For euen in liuing creatures the loue of life proceedeth not from the wil of the soule, but from the principles of nature. For the will many times embraceth death vpon vrgent occasions, which nature abhorreth; and contrariwise the act of generation, by which alone the continuance of mortal things is maintained, is sometimes bridled by the will, though nature doth alway desire it. So true it is, that this selfe-loue proceedeth not from any voluntary motion, but from naturall intention. For prouidence gaue to her creatures this as the greatest cause of continuance, that they naturally desire to continue so long as they may, wherefore there is no caule, why thou shouldest any way doubt, that al things, which are, desire naturally stabilitie of remaining, and  
eschue

eschue corruption. I confesse (quoth I) that I now see vndoubtedly that, which before seemed very doubtfull. Now that (quoth she) which desireth to continue and remaine, seeketh to haue vnity. For if this be taken away, being it selfe cannot remaine. It is<sup>d</sup> true (quoth I.) All things then (quoth she) desire vnity. I granted it to be so. But wee haue shewed that vnity is the same that goodnesse. You haue indeede. All<sup>e</sup> things then desire goodnesse, which thou mayest define thus: That goodnesse is that, which is desired of all things. There can be nothing imagined more true. For either all things haue reference to nothing, and being destitute as it were of one head, shall be in confusio without any ruler: or if there be any thing, to which al things haſtē,

M that

<sup>d</sup> All things desire vnity.

<sup>e</sup> All things desire goodnesse.

that must bee the chiefeſt of all goods. I reioyce too much O ſcholler (quoth ſhee) for thou haſt fixed in thy mind the very marke of veritie. But in this thou haſt diſcouered that, which a little before thou ſaideſt, thou wert ignorant of. What is that? (quoth I.) What the end of all things is (quoth ſhe.) For certainly it is that, which is deſired of all things, which ſince we haue concluded to bee goodneſſe, wee muſt alſo confeſſe that <sup>f</sup> goodneſſe is the end of all things.

<sup>f</sup> Goodneſſe  
is the end  
of all things.

THE XI. VERSE.

*How we may attaine to the know-  
ledge of truth.*

**H**E that would ſeek the truth with thoughts profound,  
And would not ſtray in waies which are not right,  
He to himſelfe muſt turne his inward ſight,  
And giue his motions in a circled round,  
Teaching his mind, what euer ſhe diſſigne,

Her



*Her selfe in her owne treasures to possesse :  
 So that which late lay hidde in cloudinesse,  
 More bright and cleere then Phoebus beames shall shine.  
 Flesh hath not quenched all the spirits light,  
 Though this obliuious lump holds her opprest,  
 Some seede of truth remaineth in our brest,  
 Which skillfull learning easly doth excite.  
 For being askt how can we answere true  
 Vnlesse that grace within our hearts did dwell?  
 If Platoes beauinty muse the truth vs tell,  
 We learning things, remember them anew.*

## THE XII. PROSE.

*How the world is gouerned by God.*



Then I said, that I did verie  
 wel like of Platoes doctrin,  
 for she had brought these  
 things to my remembrance now  
 the second time. First, because I lost  
 their memorie by the contagion of  
 my bodie, and after when I was op-  
 pressed with the burthen of griefe.  
 If (quoth she) thou reflectest vpon  
 that, which heretofore hath bene  
 granted, thou wilt not be farre of  
 from remembring that, which in

a This was  
 Platoes o-  
 pinien, but  
 the truth is,  
 that know-  
 ledge is go-  
 ten by in-  
 uention, &  
 instruction  
 supposing  
 that one  
 hath the  
 light of vn-  
 derstanding  
 which is ca-  
 pable of the

the beginning thou confessedst thy selfe to bee ignorant of. VVhat ? (quoth I.) By what gouernment (quoth she) the world is ruled. I remember (quoth I) that I did confesse my ignorance, but though I foresee what thou wilt say, yet I desire to heare it more plainly from thy selfe. Thou thoughtest a little before, that it was not to be doubted, that the <sup>a</sup> world is gouerned by God; neither doe I thinke now (quoth I) neither wil I euer thinke, that is to be doubted of, and I will briefly explicate the reasons, which moue me to thinke so. This world could neuer haue beene compacted of so many diuers and contrarie parts, vnlesse there were one, that doth vnite these so differēt things, and this disagreeing diuersity of natures being vnited, would separate  
and

<sup>a</sup>The world  
is gouerned  
by God.

and diuide this concord, vnlesse there were one that holdeth together that, which he vnited. Neither would the course of nature continue so certaine, nor hold so well ordered motions in due places, times, causalitie, spaces and qualities, vnlesse there were one, who himselfe remaining quiet, disposeth and ordereth this varietie of motions. This, whatsoeuer it bee, by which things created continue and are moued, I cal God, a name which all men vse. Since (quoth shee) thou art of this mind, I thinke with little labour, thou mayest be capable of felicity, and returne to thy countrey in safetie. But let vs consider, what we proposed. Haue we not placed sufficiency in happines, and granted, that God is blessednes it selfe? Yes truely. VVherefore

<sup>b</sup> God disposeth all things by himselfe, that is by goodnesse.

(quoth shee) hee needeth no outward helps to gouerne the world, otherwise, if he needeth any thing, he hath not full sufficiency. That (quoth I) must necessarily bee so. VWherefore<sup>b</sup> he disposeth all things by himselfe. No doubt hee doeth (quoth I.) But it hath beene proued that God is goodnesse it selfe. I remember it very well (quoth I.) Then hee disposeth all things by goodnesse: since he gouerneth all things by himselfe, whom we haue granted to be goodnesse.

And this is as it were the stearne and gouernement, by which the frame of the world is kept stedfast and vncorrupted. I most willingly agree (quoth I) and I foresaw a little before, though onely with a slender guesse, that thou wouldest conclude this. I beleue thee (quoth shee) for

now

now I suppose thou lookest more watchfully about thee to discerne the truth, but that which I wil say is no lesse manifest. What? (quoth I.) Since that God is deservedly thought to governe al things with the stearne of goodnesse, and all these things likewise, as I haue shewed, hasten to goodnesse with their naturall intention, can there be any doubt made, but that they are governed <sup>c</sup>willingly, and that they frame themselves of their owne accord to their disposers becke, as agreeable and conformable to their ruler? It must needes bee so (quoth I) neither would it seeme an happy gouernement, if it were an imposed yoake, not a desired health. There is <sup>d</sup> nothing then which following nature, endeouureth to resist God. Nothing (quoth I.) VVhat if any thing

<sup>c</sup> All things are willingly governed by God.

<sup>d</sup> Nothing either will or can resist God.

M 4 doeth

doeth endeavour (quoth she) can any thing preuaile against him, whom we haue granted to be most powerfull by reason of his blessednesse? No doubt (quoth I) nothing could preuaile. Wherefore there is nothing, which either will or can resist this foueraigne goodnesse. I thinke not (quoth I.) It is then the foueraigne goodnesse, which gouerneth all things strongly, and disposeth them sweetly. When (quoth I) how much (quoth I) doeth not onely the reason, which thou alleadgest, but much more the very words, which thou vsest, delight mee, that folly which bauleth forth great things, may at length bee ashamed of her selfe. Thou hast heard in the<sup>e</sup> Poets Fables how the Gyants prouoked heauen, but this benigne fortitude put the also down, as they de-

*e. Quid Lib.  
2. Metamor.  
& Macrob.  
Lib. 1. Saturnal.*

deserued. But wilt thou haue me  
vrge farther by way of disputati-  
on? perhaps by this arguing there  
will flie out some beautifull sparke  
of truth. As it pleasee thee (quoth  
I.) No man can doubt (quoth shee)  
but that God is Almighty. No man  
(quoth I) that is well in his wittes.  
But (quoth shee) there is nothing,  
that he, who is Almightye, cannot  
doe. Nothing (quoth I.) Can  
God do euil? No (quoth I.) Where-  
fore (quoth shee) <sup>f</sup> Euill is no-  
thing, since hee cannot doe it, who  
can doe any thing. Dost thou  
mocke mee (quoth I) making  
with thy reasons an inextricable  
labyrinth, that now thou maist go  
in where thou meanest to goe out  
again, and after goe out, where  
thou camest in, or dost thou  
frame a wonderful circle of the sim-  
plicity

<sup>f</sup> Euil is no-  
thing.

plicity of God ? For a little before taking thy beginning from blessednesse, thou affirmedst that to be the chiefest good, which thou saydest was placed in God, and likewise thou prouedst, that God himselfe is the chiefest good, and full happines, out of which thou madest mee a present of that inference, that no man shall be happy, vnlesse hee bee also a God. Again thou toldest me, that the forme of goodnes is the substance of God and of blessednes, and that vnity is the same with goodnes, because it is desired by the nature of all things, thou didst also dispute, that God gouerneth the whole world with the reynes of goodnes, and that all things obey willingly, and that there is no nature of euill, and thou didst explicate all these things with no for-  
reine



reine or farre fetched proofes, but with those which were proper and drawen from inward principles, the one confirming the other; We neither play nor mock (quoth she) and wee haue finished the greatest matter, that can be by the assistance of God, whose aide we implored in the beginning. For such is the forme of the diuine substance, that it neither is diuided into outward things, nor receiueth any such into it self, but as *Parmenides* saith of it:

πάντοθεν ἐν κύκλοις εἶρεν ἀνάλυκτον ὄγκον  
And if wee haue vsed no farre fetched reasons, but such as were placed within the compasse of the matter we handled, thou hast no cause to marueile, since thou hast learned in *Platoes* schoole, that our speeches must be like, and as it were a kinne to the things we speake of.

*Vndique in  
circulis ductis  
similem a-  
ceruum.*

g Our speeches must be like the things we speake of.

THE

THE XII. V E R S E.

Philosophy exhorteth to perseuerance  
in contemplation and vertue.

**H**Appy is he that can behold  
The wel-spring, whence all good doth rise,  
Happy is he, that can unfold  
The bands, with which the earth him ties.  
The <sup>a</sup> Thracian Poet, whose sweete song  
Perform'd his wines sad obsequyes,  
And forc't the woods to runne along,  
When he his mournfull tunes did play,  
Whose powerfull musicke was so strong,  
That it could make the riuers stay;  
The fearefull Hynds not daunted were,  
But with the Lions tooke their way,  
Nor did the Hare behold with feare  
The Dogge, whom these sweete notes appease.  
When force of grieffe drew yet more neare,  
And on his heart did strongly seaze,  
Nor tunes, which all in quiet bound  
Could any iotte their master ease,  
Complayning of his gretuous wound,  
And Plutoes Pallace visuing,  
He mixt sweet verses with the sound  
Of his loud harpes delightfull string,  
All that he dranke with thirsty draught  
From his high mothers chiefeest spring,

<sup>a</sup> Orpheus.

*All that his restlesse grieve him taught,  
 And loue, which giues grieve double aide,  
 With this euen hell it selfe was caught  
 Whether he went, and pardon pray'd  
 For his deare spouse, (unheard request)  
 The ugly porter was dismayd,  
 Rauiſht with this vnwonted guest,  
 The furies, which in tortures keepe  
 The guilty soules with paines opprest,  
 Moud with his song began to weepe.  
 Ixions<sup>b</sup> wheele now standing still  
 Turnes not his head wth motions ſteepe.  
 Though<sup>c</sup> Tant alus might drinke at will,  
 To quench his thirst he would forbear.  
 The Vulture full with muſicke shrill  
 Doth not poore<sup>d</sup> Titius liuer teare.  
 We by his verſes conquered are,  
 Saith the great King whom ſpirits feare.  
 Let vs not then from him debarre  
 His wife, whom he with ſongs doth gaine,  
 Yet leſt our gift ſhould ſtretch too farre,  
 We will it with this law reſtraine,  
 That when from hell he takes his flight,  
 He ſhall from looking backe reſtraine.  
 Who can for louers lawes endite?  
 Loue hath no law, but her owne will.  
 Orpheus ſeemg in th' end of night  
 Euridice doth looſe and kill  
 Her and himſelfe with fooliſh loue,  
 But you this fained tale fulfill,*

<sup>b</sup> With which he is tormented in hell for attempting to commit adultery with Iuno.  
<sup>c</sup> Who killed his own ſonne to entertaine the Gods, and therefore is tormented with hunger & thirst.  
<sup>d</sup> Who would haue committed adultery with Lato-na Apolloes mother, or with Diana.

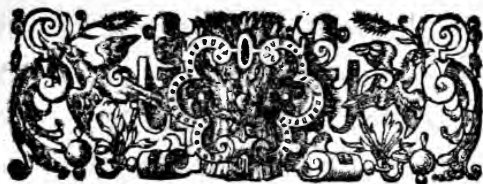
Who

## Boetius his

Who thinke vnto the day aboue  
To bring with speede your darke some mind.  
For if your eyes (conquerd) you mone  
Backward to Pluto left behind,  
All the rich pray, which thence you tooke,  
You loose, while backe to hell you looke.

THE





THE  
FOVRTH BOOKE  
OF BOETIVS.

Conteining the reasons, why  
God permitteth euill.

---

THE I. PROSE.

*Boetius merueileth at the impunitie and  
prosperitie of euill men.*



When Philosophy had  
sung these verses with  
a soft & sweete voice,  
observing due digni-  
tie and grauitie in her  
coun-

countenance and gesture, I not ha-  
uing altogether forgotten my in-  
ward grieve, interrupted her speech,  
which shee was about to continue,  
and sayed, O thou, who bringest vs  
to see true light, those things, which  
hetherto thou hast treated of, haue  
manifestly appeared to bee Diuine  
in their owne knowledge, and in-  
uincible by thy reasons, and thou  
hast said, that though the force of  
grieve had made me forget them of  
late, yet heretofore I was not alto-  
gether ignorant of them. But this  
is the chiefest cause of my sorrow,  
that, since the gouernour of all  
things is so good, there can either  
be any euill at all, or passe vn timer  
punished. Which alone I beseech thee con-  
sider, how much admiration it de-  
serueth. But there is another grea-  
ter then this, for wickednesse bea-  
ring

ring rule and sway, vertue is not onely without reward; but lieth also troden vnder the wickeds feet, and is punished in stead of vice. That which things should be done in the kingdome of God, who knoweth all things, can doe all things, but will doe onely that, which is good, no man can sufficiently admire nor complaine. To which she answered, It were indeede infinitely strange, and surpassing all monsters, it, as thou conceinest, in the best ordered house of so great an housholder, the vilest vessels were made account of; and the pretious neglected, but it is not so. For if those things which were a little before concluded, be kept vnuiolated, thou shalt by his helpe, of whose kingdome we speake, know, that the good are alway poverfull,

N

and

and the euill alway abiect and weake, & that vices are neuer without punishment, nor vertue without reward, and that the good are alway prosperous, and the euil vnfortunate, and many things of that sort, which will take away all cause of complaint, and giue thee firme and solide strength. And since by my meanes thou hast already seene the forme of true blessednesse, and knowen where it is placed, running ouer all those things, which I thinke necessary to let passe, I will shew thee the way, which will carry thee home. And I will also fasten wings vpon thy mind, with which shee may rouse herselfe, that al perturbation being driuen away, thou mayest returne safely into thy countrey by my direction, by my path, and with my wings.

THE



## THE I. V E R S E.

How Philosophy bringeth men to the  
contemplation of God.

**F**or I have swift and nimble wings, which will ascend the lofty skies,  
With which when thy quick mind is clad it wil the loathed earth disperse  
And goe beyond the airy globe, and watry cloudes behind it leaue  
Passing the fire, which scorching heat doth from the heauens swift course re-  
Vntill it reach the starry house, and get to treade bright Phoebus waxes (cease,  
Ioyning it selfe in company with aged Saturnes lightsome raies,  
And trace the circles of the starres, which in the night to vs appeare,  
And hauing staid there long enough goe on beyond the farthest sphere.  
Sitting upon the highest orbe partaker of the glorious light,  
Where highest King his Scepter holds, and the worlds raines doth guide a-  
And in his Charriot standing firme, doth euery thing in order set, (right,  
Vnto this seat when thou art brought, thy countrey, which thou didst forget,  
Thou then wilt challenge to thy selfe, saying this is the glorious land,  
Where I was borne and in this soile my feet for euermore shall stand.  
Whence if thou pleasest to behold the earthly might, which thou hast left,  
Those Tyrants, which the people feare, will seeme of their true home bereft.

## THE II. P R O S E.

That good men are powerfull, and euill  
men weake.



H ( quoth I. ) How great  
things doest thou promise?  
And I doubt not but thou

\* Good  
men are  
powerfull,  
and euill  
men weak

canst performe them, wherefore  
stay me not now, that thou hast  
stirred vp my desire. First then  
(quoth she) that<sup>a</sup> good men are al-  
way powerfull, and euill men of  
no strength, thou mayest easily  
knowe, and the one is proued by  
the other. For since that good and  
euill are contraries, if it be conuin-  
ced, that goodnesse is potent, the  
weakenesse of euil will be also ma-  
nifest; and contrariwise if we dis-  
cerne the frailty of euill, wee must  
needes acknowledge the firmenes  
of goodnesse. But that our opini-  
on may be more certainly embrac-  
ed, I will take both waies, confir-  
ming my propositions, sometime  
from one part, sometime from an-  
other. There bee two things, by  
which all humane actions are ef-  
fected, will and power, of which  
if

if either be wanting, there can nothing be performed. For if there want will, no man taketh any thing in hand against his will, and if there be not power, the will is in vaine. So that, if thou seest anie willing to obtaine that, which he doth not obtaine, thou canst not doubt, but that he wanted power to obtaine, what he would. It is manifest (quoth I) and can by no meanes be denied. And wilt thou doubt, that he could, whō thou seest bring to passe, what he desired? No. But euery man is mighty in that which he can doe, & weake in that, which he cannot doe. I confesse it (quoth I.) Doest thou remember then (quoth she) that it was inferred by our former discourses, that all the intention of mans will doth hasten to happinesse, though their courses

be diuers? I remember (quoth I) that that also was proued. Remembreſt thou alſo that bleſſedneſſe is goodneſſe it ſelfe, and conſequently when bleſſedneſſe is ſought after, goodneſſe muſt of force be deſired? I haue that alſo fixt in my memory. Wherefore all men both good and bad, without difference of intentions endeauour to obtaine goodneſſe. It followeth (quoth I.) But it is certaine, that men are made good by the obtaining of goodneſſe. It is ſo. Wherefore good men obtaine what they deſire. So it ſcemeth. And if euill men did obtaine the goodneſſe they deſire, they could not be euill. It is true. Wherefore ſince they both deſire goodneſſe, but the one obtaineth it, and the other not, there is no doubt but that good men are power-

powerfull, and the cuill weake,  
Whosoever doubteth of this  
(quoth I) hee neither considereth  
the nature of things, nor the conse-  
quence of thy reasons. Againe  
(quoth shee) if there bee two, to  
whom the same thing is proposed  
according to nature, and the one of  
them, bringeth it perfectly to passe  
with his naturall function; but  
the other cannot exercise that natu-  
ral function, but after another ma-  
ner, then is agreeable to nature,  
& doth not perform that, which he  
had proposed, but imitateth the o-  
ther who performeth it: Which of  
these two wilt thou iudge to bee  
more powerfull? Though I con-  
iecture (quoth I) at thy meaning,  
yet I desire to heare it more plaine-  
ly. VVilt thou denie (quoth shee)  
that the motion of walking is a-  
greeable

greeable to the nature of men? No (quoth I.) And makest thou any doubt, that the function of it doth naturally belong to the feet? There is no doubt of this neither (quoth I.) Wherefore if one, that can go vpon his feete, doeth walke, and another, who hath not this naturall function of his feete, endeouureth to walke by creeping vpon his hands: which of these two is deservedly to bee esteemed the stronger. Inferre therest (quoth I) for no man doubteth, but that hee which can vse that naturall function is stronger then he which cannot. But (quoth she) the good seeke to obtaine the chiefest good, which is equally proposed to badde and good, by the naturall function of vertues, but the euill endeavour to obtaine the same by diuers concupiscences,

piscences, which are not the natural function of obtaining goodnesse. Thinkest thou otherwise? No (quoth I) for it is manifest, what followeth. For by force of that which I haue already granted, it is necessary, that good men are powerful, and euil men weake. Thou runnest rightly (quoth she) and it is (as Physicians are wont to hope) a token of an erected and resisting nature. VVherefore, since I see thee most apt and willing to comprehend, I will therefore heape vp manie reasons together. For consider the great weakenesse of vicious men, who cannot come so farre, as their naturall intention leadeth, and almost compelleth the. And what? If they were destitute of this so great and almost inuincible helpe of the direction  
of

of nature? Ponder likewise the immense impotency of wicked men. For they are no light or trifling rewards, which they desire, and cannot obtaine: but they faile in the very summe and toppe of things: neither can the poore wretches compasse that, which they onely labour for nights and daies: in which thing the forces of the good eminently appeare. For as thou wouldest iudge him to be most able to walke, who going on foote could come as farre, as there were any place to goe in: so must thou of force iudge him most powerful, who obtaineth the end of all, that can be desired, beyond which there is nothing. Hence that which is opposite also followeth, that the same men are wicked, and destitute of all forces. For why doe they follow



low vices, forsaking vertues? By ignorance of that which is good? But what is more deuoid of strength then blind ignorance? Or do they know what they should embrace, but passion driueth them headlong the contrary way? So also intemperance make them fraile, since they cannot strue against vice. Or doe they wittingly and willingly forsake goodnesse, and decline to vices? But in this sort they leaue not onely to be powerfull, but euen to be at all. For they which leaue the common end of all things which are, leaue also being. Which may perhaps seeme strange to some, that we should say, that euill men are not at all, who are the greatest part of men: but yet it is so. For I denie not, that euill men are euill, but withall I say that <sup>b</sup> purely and simply

<sup>b</sup>Euill men  
simply haue  
no being at  
all.

plie they are not.

For as thou mayest call a carcasſe a dead man, but not ſimply a man, ſo I confeſſe, that the vicious are euill, but I cannot grant that abſolutely they are. For that is, which retaineth order, and keepeth nature, but that, which faileth from this, leaueth alſo to be that, which it is in his owne nature. But thou wilt ſay, that euill men can do many things, neither will I deny it, but this their power proceedeth not from forces, but from weakneſſe. For they can doe euill, which they could not doe, if they could haue remained in the performance of that, which is good. Which poſſibilitie declareth more euidently that they can do nothing. For if, as wee concluded a little before, euill is nothing, ſince<sup>c</sup> they can onely doe euill, it is manifeſt, that

<sup>c</sup> Euill men  
can doe no-  
thing.

that they can doe nothing. It is plaine. And that thou maist vnderstand, what the force of this power is; we determined a little before, that there is nothing more powerful then the Soueraigne goodnesse. It is true (quoth I.) But he cannot doe euill. No. Is there any then (quoth she) that thinke that men can doe all things? No man, except he be mad, thinketh so But yet men can doe euill. I would to God, they could not (quoth I.) Since therefore hee that can onely doe good, can doe all things, and they who can doe euill, cannot doe all things, it is manifest, that they which can doe euill, are the lesse potent. Moreouer, wee haue proued that all power is to bee accounted among those things, which are to be wished for, and that all such things haue  
refe-

reference to goodnesse, as to the very height of their nature. But the possibilitie of committing wickednesse cannot haue reference to goodnesse. Wherefore it is not to be wished for, & consequently it is manifest, possibility of euil is no power. By all which the power of the good, and the vndoubted infirmitie of the euill appeareth. And it is manifest, that that sentence of<sup>d</sup> *Plato* is true; that onely wise men can doe that, which they desire, and that wicked men practise indeed what they list, but cannot performe what they would. For they doe what they list thinking to obtaine the good which they desire, by those things which cause them delight, but they obtain it not, because shamefull actions cannot arriue to happinesse.

THE

## THE II. VERSE.

Kings are not potent, if they  
be passionate.

**T**He Kings, whom we behold  
In highest glory plac't  
And with rich purple grac't  
Compast with souldiers bold.  
Whose count'nance shewes fiercethreats,  
Who with rash fury chide,  
If any curbe the pride  
Of their vaine glorious seates.  
Yet inwardly opprest  
They are with captines chaines,  
For filthy lust there raignes  
And poysoneth their brest,  
Wrath often them perplex,  
Raising their minds like waues  
Oft sorrow makes them slaves  
And sliding hopes them vex.  
So many Tyrants still  
Dwelling in one poore heart  
Except they first depart  
Shce cannot haue her will.

THE III. PROSE.

*That good men are not without reward,  
nor euill without punishments.*



Esteem thou then, in what  
myre wickednesse wallows,  
and how clearly honesty  
shineth? By which it is manifest,  
that the good are neuer without re-  
wards, nor the euill without pu-  
nishments. For that, for which a-  
nything is done, may deseruedly  
seeme the reward of that action, as  
to him that runneth a race, the  
crowne for which hee runneth, is  
proposed as a reward. But we haue  
shewed, that blessednesse is the selfe  
same goodnes, for which all things  
are done. Wherefore this <sup>a</sup> good-  
nesse is proposed as a common re-  
ward for all humane actions, and  
this

<sup>a</sup> Goodnes  
the reward  
of all hu-  
mane acti-  
ons,

this cannot be separated from those, who are good. For hee shall not rightly be any longer called good, who wanteth goodnesse : wherefore vertuous actions are not left without their due rewards. And how much soeuer the euill doe rage, yet the wise mans crowne wil not fade nor wither. For others wickednesse depriueth not vertuous minds of their proper glory. But if hee should reioyce at any thing which hee hath from others, either he, who gaue it, or any other might take it away. But because euery mans vertue is the cause of it, then only he shall want his reward, when he leaueth to be vertuous. Lastly, since euery reward is therfore desired, because it is thought to be good, who can iudge him to bee deuoyd of reward, which hath goodnesse for his

O

possession

possession ? But what reward hath hee ? The most beautifull and the greatest that can be. For remember that *Corollarium* , which I presented thee with a little before , as with a rare and pretious iewell , and inferre thus : since that goodnesse it selfe is happinesse , it is manifest that all good men euen by being good , are made happy. But we agreed , that blessed men are Gods. Wherefore the reward of <sup>b</sup> good men , which no time can wast , no mans power diminish , no mans wickednesse obscure , is to become Gods. Which things being so , no wise man can any way doubt of the inseparable punishment of the euill. For since goodnesse and euill , punishment and reward are opposite the one to the other : those things , which wee see fall out in the reward of goodnesse,

d Good  
men are  
Gods.



nesse, must needes be answerable in a contrary maner, in the punishment of euill. Wherefore as to honest men, honesty it selfe is a reward, so to the wicked their very wickednesse is a punishment. And hee that is punished, doubteth not, but that he is afflicted with euill. Wherefore if they would truely consider their owne estate, can they thinke themselves free from punishment, whom wickednesse the worst of all euils, doth not onely touch, but strongly infect? But weigh the punishment, which accompanieth the wicked, by comparing it to the reward of the vertuous. For thou learnedst not long before, that whatsoever is at all, is one, and that vnity is goodnesse, by which it followeth, that whatsoever is, must also bee good. And in this manner, whatsoever falleth

O 2

from

Wicked-  
nesse the  
punishment  
of euill men

<sup>d</sup> Full men  
ceale to be  
that which  
they were.

from goodnesse, ceaseth to be, by which it followeth, that<sup>d</sup> euil men leaue to be that, which they were. But the shape of men, which they they still retaine, sheweth them to haue beene men, wherefore by embracing wickenesse, they haue lost the nature of men. But since vertue alone can exalt vs aboue men, wickednesse must needs cast those vnder the desert of men, which it hath bereaued of that condition. Wherefore thou canst not account him a man, whom thou seest transformed by vices. Is the violent extortour of other mens goods carried away with his couetous desire? Thou mayest liken him to a wolfe. Is the angrie and vnquiet man alway contending and brauling? Thou mayest compare him to a dogge. Doeth the trecherous fel'ow reioyce  
that

that hee hath deceiued others with his hidden fraudes? Let him be accounted no better then a fox. Doth the outrageous fret and fume? Let him bee thought to haue a Lions mind. Is the feareful & timorous afraid without cause? Let him be esteemed like to Hares and Deares. Is the slow and stupide alway idle? He liueth an asses life. Doeth the light and vnconstant change his courses? Hee is nothing different from the birds. Is he drowned in filthy and vncleane lusts? He is entangled in the pleasure of stinking sinne. So that hee, <sup>e</sup> who leauing vertue, ceaseth to be a man, since he cannot be partaker of the Diuine condition, is turned into a beast.

<sup>e</sup> Wicked  
men are  
beasts.

THE III. VERSE.

That vices are of greater force, then  
enchau'tments.

**T**He sailes, which wise Vliſſes bore,  
And ſhips, which in the ſeas long time did ſtray,  
The Eaſterne wind draue to that <sup>a</sup> ſhore,  
Where the faire Goddeſſe Lady Circe lay  
Daughter by birth to Phæbus bright,  
Who with enchanted cups and charmes did ſtay  
Her gueſts, deceiv'd with their delight,  
And into ſundry figures them did change,  
Being moſt ſkillfull in the night,  
And ſecret force of herbes and ſimpls ſtrange,  
Some like to ſavage beaſts and ſome  
Like Lyons fierce, which daile uſe to range  
Upon the Libyan plaines, become.  
Others are charged to the ſhape and guiſe  
Of ravenous Wolves, and waxing dumbe  
Uſe howling in the ſtead of manly cries.  
Others like to the Tigre rore,  
Which in the ſcorched Indian deſert lies.  
And though the <sup>b</sup> winged ſonne of Ioue  
From theſe bewitched cups delightfull taſt  
To keepe the famous Captaine ſtroke,  
Yet them the greedy mariners embrace

<sup>a</sup> The Ile

<sup>b</sup> Mercurius.

With much desire, till turn'd to swine  
 In steed of bread they fed on oken mast.  
 Now in their outward shape no signe,  
 Nor shew remaines of any humane grace,  
 Onely their minds unchaung'd repine  
 To see their bodies in such ugly case.  
 O feeble hand, and idle art,  
 Which though it could the outward lims deface:  
 Yet had no force to change the heart.  
 For all the force of men giu'n by Gods arme  
 Lyes hidden in their inmost part.  
 The poysons therefore, whith within them swarme  
 More deeply pierce, and with more might,  
 Fer to the body, though they doe no harme:  
 Yet on the soule they worke their spight.

## THE IIII. PROSE.

*Of the misery of wicked men.*



Then said I, I confesse, and  
 perceiue that thou affir-  
 mest not without cause,  
 that the vicious, though they keepe  
 the outward shape of men are in  
 their

<sup>a</sup> The misery of the wicked encreaseth with their power.

their inward state of mind changed into brute beasts, But I would haue had them, whose cruell and wicked heart regeth to the harme of the good, restrained from executing this their malice. They are restrained (quoth shee) as shall be proued in conuenient place. But yet if this<sup>a</sup> liberty, which they seeme to haue, be taken away, their punishment also is in great part released. For, (which perhaps to some may seeme incredible) euill men must necessarily be more vnhappy, when they haue brought to passe their purposes, then if they could not obtaine what they desire. For if it bee a miserable thing to desire that, which is euill, it is more miserable to be able to performe it, without which the miserable will could not haue any effect. Wherefore since every  
one

one of these hath their peculiar misery, they must of force bee oppressed with a threefold wretchednesse, whom thou seest desire, be able, and performe wickednesse. I grant it (quoth I) but I earnestly wish, that they may soone be deliuered from this miserie hauing lost the power to performe their malice. They will loose it (quoth thee) sooner then perhaps either thou wouldest, or they themselues suppose. For in the short compasse of this life there is nothing so late, which the immortall soule thinketh to expect long, so that the great hope and highest attempts of the wicked are many times made frustrate with a suddaine and vnexpected ende, which in trueth maketh their miserie to bee in some measure,

For

b The longer a man is wicked, the more miserable he is.

For if wickednes make men miserable, the longer one is wicked, the more miserable he must needs be; And I should iudge him the most vnhappy man, that may be, if death at least did not end their malice. For if wee haue concluded truely of the misery of wickednesse, it is manifest, that the wretchednesse, which is euerlasting, must of force bee infinite. A strange illation (quoth I) and hard to bee granted: but I see, that those things, which were granted before, agree very well with these. Thou thinkest aright (quoth she) but he that findeth difficultie to yeeld to the conclusion, must either shew, that something which is presupposed is false, or that the combination of the propositions make not a necessary conclusion, otherwise granting that, which went before, hee hath no reason to doubt of the inference. For this also, which I will conclude now, will seeme no lesse strange, and yet followeth as necessarily out of those things, which are already assumed. What? (quoth I.)

c That wicked men (quoth she) are more happy being punished, then if they escaped the hands of iustice. Neither doe I now goe about to shew that, which may come into euery mans minde, that euill customes are corrected

c Wicked men more happy, when they are punished, then when they escape.



Corrected by chastisement, and are reduced to vertue by the terrour of punishment, and that others may take example to auoid euill, but in another manner also I thinke vitious men, that goe unpunished to be more miserable, although we haue no relation, nor respect to correction or example. And what other manner shall this be (quoth I) besides these? Haue we not graunted (quoth shee) that the good are happy, and the euil miserable? We haue (quoth I.) If then (quoth she) something that is good be added to ones misery, is not hee happier then another, whose misery is desolate and solitary, without any participation of goodnesse? So it seemeth (quoth I.) What if there be some other euill annexed to this miserable man, who is depriued of all goodnesse, besides, those,

those, which make him miserable, is hee not to bee accounted much more vnhappy then he, whose miserie is lightned by pertaking of goodnesse? Why not? (quoth I.) Then the wicked haue some good annexed when they are punished, to witte, the punishment it selfe, which by reason of iustice is good, and when they are not punished, they haue a farther euill, the very impunitie, which thou hast deservedly graunted to bee an euill to wickednesse. I cannot deny it. Wherefore the vicious are farre more vnhappy, by escaping punishment vniustly, then by being iustly punished. But it is manifest, that it is iust, that the wicked be punished, and vniust that they should goe unpunished. VVho can deny that? But neither will any man deny  
this

this ( quoth shee ) that whatsoeuer is iust, is good, and contrariwise, that whatsoeuer is vniust, is euill. This followeth ( quoth I ) out of that, which hath beene concluded before. But I pray thee, leauest thou no punishments for the soules after the death of the body? And those great too ( quoth shee.) Some of which I thinke to bee executed as sharpe punishments; and other as mercifull purgations. But I purpose not now to treat of those. But wee haue hetherto laboured, that thou shouldest perceiue the power of the wicked, which to thee seemed intollerable, to bee none at all, and that thou shouldest see, that those, whome thou complainedst went vnpunished, doe neuer escape without punishment for their  
wic-

wickednesse. And that thou shouldest learne, that the licence, which thou wishedst might soone end, is neither long, and the longer, the more miserable, and most vnhappy if it were euerlasting. Besides, that the wicked are more wretched being permitted to escape with iniust impunity, then being punished with iust seuerity. Out of which it followeth, that they are then more grieuously punished, when they are thought to goe scot-free. When I consider thy reasons ( quoth I ) I thinke nothing can bee said more truly. But if I returne to<sup>d</sup> the iudgements of men, who is there, that will thinke them worthy to be beleueed, or so much as heard? It is true ( quoth shee ) for they cannot lift vp their eyes accustomed to darkenesse, to behold the light of mani-

<sup>d</sup> The blind  
iudgments  
of men.

manifest truth, and they are like those birds; whose sight is quickned by the night, and dimmed by the day. For while they looke vpon, not the order of things, but their owne affections, they thinke that licence and impunity to sinne, is happy. But see, what the eternall law establisheth. If thou appliest thy mind to the better, thou needest no iudgeto reward thee: thou hast ioyned thy selfe to the more excellent things. If thou declinest to that which is worse, neuer expect any other to punish thee, thou hast put thy selfe in a miserable estate; as if by turnes thou lookest downe to the myerie ground; and vp to heauen, all outward things ceasing, by thy very sight thou seemest sometime to be in the durt, and sometime present to the starres. But the common

men fort considereth not these things. VVhat then ? Shall wee ioyne our selues to them, whom we haue proued to be like beasts? VVhat if one hauing altogether lost his sight, should likewise forget, that hee ever had any, and should thinke, that hee wanted nothing which belongeth to humane perfection; should we therefore thinke them blind, that see his folly? For they will not graunt that neither, which may be proued by as forcible reasons,<sup>e</sup> that they are more vnhappy, that doe iniury, then they which suffer it. I would (quoth I) heare these reasons. Deniest thou (quoth she) that euery wicked man deserueth punishment? No. And it is many wayes cleare, that the vicious are miserable. It is true (quoth I.) If then (quoth she) thou

<sup>e</sup> They which doe iniury are more vnhappy, then they which suffer it.

thou wert to examine this cause, whom wouldest thou appoint to be punished, him that did, or that suffered wrong? I doubt not (quoth I) but that I would satisfie him that suffered, with the sorrow of him that did it. The offerer of the iniury then would seeme to thee more miserable, then the receiuer. It followeth (quoth I.) Hence therefore, and for other causes grounded vpon that principle, that dishonesty of it selfe maketh men miserable, it appeareth, that the iniury which is offered any man, is not the receiuers, but the doers misery. But now a dayes (quoth she) orators take the contrary course. For they endeavour to draw the Iudges to commiseration of them. who haue suffered any grieuous afflictions, whereas pittie is more iustly due to the causers there.

P

of

of, who should be brought not by angry, but rather by fauourable and compaffionate accusers to iudgement, as it were sicke men to a Physician, that their diseases and faults might bee taken away by punishments, by which meanes the defenders labour, would either wholly cease, or if they had rather profite in some sort, they would change their defence into accusations. And the wicked themselves, if they could behold the least part of vertue at some little rift, and perceiue that they might be deliuered from the filth of sinne by the affliction of punishments, in respect of obtaining vertue, they would not esteeme of torments, and would refuse the assistance of their defenders, and wholly resigne themselves to their accusers and Iudges. By which  
meanes



meanes it commeth to passe, that  
 in wise men there is no place at all  
 for hatred. For, who but a verie  
 foole would hate the good? And to  
 hate the wicked were against rea-  
 son. For as faintnesse is a disease of  
 the bodie, so is vice a sicknesse of  
 the mind. Wherefore, since wee  
 iudge those, that haue corporall in-  
 firmities, to bee rather worthy of  
 compasion, then of hatred, much  
 more are they to be pitied, and not  
 abhorred, whose minds are oppres-  
 sed with wickednesse the greatest  
 malady that may be.

f A wise  
 man hateth  
 none.

### THE IIII. VERSE.

No man is to be hated, the good are to be  
 loued, and the euill to be pittied.

**VV**hy should we strive to die so many waies,  
 And slay our selues with our own hands,

## Boetius his

If we seeke death, shee ready stands,  
She willing comes, her passage neuer stays.  
Those against whome the wild beasts armed be,  
Are arm'd against themselves with rage.  
Do they such warres vniustly wage,  
Because their liues, and manners disagree,  
And so themselves with mutual weapons kill.  
Alas, but this reuenge is small.  
Wouldst thou giue due desert to all?  
Loue then the good, and pittie thou the ill.

### THE V. PROSE.

Boetius complaineth, that prosperity and  
aduersity are common both to good  
and badde.



See (quoth I) what felicity, or mi-  
sery is placed in the deserts of ho-  
nest, and dishonest men. But I  
consider that there is somewhat  
good, or euill euen in this popular fortune.  
For no wise man had rather liue in banish-  
ment, pouerty and ignominie, then prosper  
in his owne countrey, being rich, respected,  
and powerfull. For in this manner is the  
office of wisdom performed with more  
credite and renowne, when the gouernours  
happinesse is participated by their people;  
so

so chiefly because prisons, chaines, and other torments of legall punishments are rather due to pernicious subiects, for whom they were also ordained. Wherefore I much marueile, why these things are thus turned vpside downe, and the punishments of wickednesse oppresse the good, while euill men obtaine the rewards of the good. And I desire to know of thee, what may seeme to be the reason of so vniust confusi-  
on. For I would marueile lesse, if I thought that all things were disordered by casuall e-  
uents. Now God being the gouernour, my astonishment is encreased, because since that hee distributeth oftentimes that which is pleasant to the good, and that which is dis-  
tastfull to the badd, and contrariwise aduer-  
sity to the good, and prosperity to the euill, vnlesse we find out the cause hereof; what difference may there seeme to bee betwixt this, and accidentall chances? It is no mar-  
ueile (quoth she) if any thing be thought tem-  
erarious and confused, when wee knowe not the order it hath. But although thou beest ignorant of the causes why things be so disposed, yet because <sup>a</sup> the world hath a good gouernour, doubt not, but all things are well done.

<sup>a</sup> We must thinke that God doth all things wel, though we vnderstand not the reason of his do-  
ings.

# Boetius his

## THE V. VERSE.

*Admiration ceaseth, when the causes of  
things are knowne.*

**W**Ho knows not how the stars neare to the poles doe  
And how Poores his slow waine doth guide, (slide  
And why hee fers so late, and doth so carely rise,  
May wonder at the course of the skyes.  
If when the moone is full, her hornes seeme pale to sight,  
Infectd with the darkenesse of the night  
And stars from whence all grace she with her brightnes tooke,  
Now shew themselves while she doth dimly looke.  
As a public error straight through vulgar minds doth passe,  
And they with many strokes beate upon brasse.  
None wonders, why the winds upon the waters blow,  
Nor why late Phœbus beams dissolues the snow.  
These easie are to know, the other hidden he.  
And therefore more our hearts they terrifie.  
All strange events, which time to light more seldome brings,  
And the same people count as sudden things,  
If we our clouded minds from ignorance could free,  
No longer would by vs admired be.

a Steſichorus  
and Pinda-  
rus thought  
that the  
moone was  
eclipsed by  
longs, and  
therefore to  
hinder it,  
they caused  
the belles to  
be rung out  
of order, see  
Iuu. mall.  
Satyra, 6.

## THE VI. PROSE.

*Of prouidence and Fate, and why prof-  
peritie and aduerſitie are common both  
to good and bad.*



**T**is true (quoth I) but  
since it is thy profession to  
explicate the causes of hid-  
den

den things, & to vnfold the reasons, which are covered with darkenesse, I beseech thee vouchsafe to declare this miracle, which troubleth me aboue all others. Then she smiling a little saide: thou inuitest me to a matter, which is most <sup>a</sup> hardly found out, and can scarcely be sufficiently declared, for it is such, that one doubt being taken away, innumerable other, like the heads of <sup>b</sup> Hydra, succeed, neither will they haue any end, vlesse a man represseth them with the most liuely fire of his minde: for in this matter are wont to be handled these questions. Of the simplicitie of prouidence, of the course of fate, of sudden chaunces, of Gods knowledge and prædestination, and of free will, which, how weighty they are, thou thy self discernest.

<sup>a</sup> How hard it is to find out the reason of Gods prouidence

<sup>b</sup> Which had 70. or 90. heads. and if one were cut of 2. arose in the place.

But because it is a part of thy cure, to know these things also, though the time be short, yet wee will endeavour to touch them briefly. But if the sweetnesse of verse delight thee, thou must forbear this pleasure for a while, vntill I propose vnto thee some fewe arguments. As it pleaseth thee (quoth I.) Then taking as it were a new beginning, she discoursed in this maner. The generation of all things, and all the proceedings of mutable natures, and whatsoeuer is moued in any sort, take their causes, order, and formes from the stabilitie of the Diuine mind. This placed in the Castle of his owne simplicitie, prefixeth manifolde wayes for all that is to bee wrought or done; which wayes being considered in the puritie of Gods vnderstanding, are

are named prouidence, but beeing referred to those things, which hee moueth and disposeth, they were by the ancients called Fate. The diuersitie of which will easily appeare, if we weigh the force of both. For <sup>c</sup> prouidence is the very Diuine reason it selfe, seated in the highest Prince, which disposeth all things; But <sup>d</sup> Fate is a disposition inhærent in changeable things, by which prouidence connecteth all things in their due order. For prouidence embraceth all things together, though diuers, though infinite; but Fate putteth euery particular thing into motion, beeing distributed by places, formes, & times: so that this vnfolding of temporall order being vnited in the foresight of Gods mind, is prouidence & the same vniting, being digested & vnfolded by times,

<sup>c</sup> Prouidence

<sup>d</sup> Fate.

e Diuers o  
pinions of  
ancient  
philoso  
phers.

f This is  
distinguish  
ed from di  
uine spirits  
mentioned  
in the first  
place, by  
their missi  
on or out  
ward admi  
nistration,  
from which  
the former  
are free.

times, is called fate. Which although they be diuers, yet the one dependeth on the other. For fatall order proceedeth from the simplicitie of prouidence. For as a workeman conceiuing the forme of any thing in his mind, taketh his worke in hand, and executeth by order of time, that which he had simply and presently foreseene: So God by his prouidence disposeth whatsoeuer is to be done with simplicitie and stabilitie: And by fate effecteth by manifold and temporal waies those very things which he disposeth. Wherefore, e whether fate bee exercised by the subordination of certaine Diuine spirits to prouidence, or this fatall webbe be wouen by the seruice of the soule; of all nature, or of the heavenly motions of the Starres; of angelicall verue, or of diabolical



cal industry; or of some or al of these; that certainly is manifest, that providence is an vnmoueable and simple forme of those things, which are to be done; & fate a moueable connexion and temporall order of those things, which the diuine simplicity hath disposed to be done. So that all, that is vnder fate, is also subiect to providence, to which also fate it self obeieth. But some things which are placed vnder providence, are aboue the course of fate. And they are those things, which nigh to the first diuinity being stable & fixe, exceede the order of fatal mobility. For as of Orbes which turne about the same Centre, the inmost draweth nigh to the simplicity of the middest, and is as it were the hinge of the rest, which are placed without it, about which they are turned :  
and

& Some things aboue the course of Fate.

and the cutmost wheeled with a greater compasse, by how much it departeth from the middle indiuisibility of the Centre, is so much the more extended into larger spaces: but that which is ioyned & coupled to that middle, approcheth to simplicity, and ceaseth to spread & flow abroad. In like maner that, which departeth farthest from the first mind, is perplexed with greater connexions of fate, and euery thing is so much the freer from fate, by how much it draweth nigh to that hinge of all things. And if it sticketh to the stability of the soueraign mind, free from motion, it surpasseth also the necessity of fate. VVherefore in what sort discourse is compared to vnderstanding; that, which is produced to that which is, time to eternity, a circle to the Centre. Such is  
the

the course of moueable fate, to the stable simplicity of prouidence.

That course mooueth the heauen and starres, tempereth the elements one with another, and transformeth them by mutuall changing.

The same reneweth all rising and dying things by like proceeding of fruites and seedes. This

comprehendeth also the actions and fortunes of men by an vnloofable connection of causes, which since they proceede from the principles of vnmooueable prouidence, must needs also be <sup>h</sup> immutable. For in this manner

things are best governed, if the simplicity which remayneth in the Diuine minde, produceth an inflexible order of causes, and this order restrayneth with his owne immutabilitie, things

<sup>h</sup> Fate and those things which are vnder it, are immutable as they are referred to prouidence

<sup>i</sup> Nothing is  
done for  
the loue of  
euill.

things otherwile mutable & which  
would haue a confused course.  
VWhereof it ensueth, that though  
all things seeme confused and dis-  
ordered to you, who are not able to  
consider this order: notwithstanding  
all things are disposed by their  
owne measure directing them to  
good. For there is nothing, which  
is done for the loue of euill, euen by  
the wicked themselves, whom, as  
hath beene abundantly prooued,  
lewd errour carrieth away, while  
they are seeking after that, which is  
good, so farre is it, that order proce-  
ding from the hing of the soueraign  
goodnesse, should auert any from  
his first beginning. But thou wilt  
say, what more vniust confusion  
can there be, then that both aduer-  
sity and prosperity should happen  
to the good, and in like maner both  
desired

desired and hatefull things to the wicked. But are men so completely wise, that whosoever they <sup>k</sup> iudge wicked or honest, must needs be so? How then are their censures contrary one to another, so that to diuers the same men seeme worthy of reward and punishment. But let vs graunt, that some are able to discern the good from the euill. Can they therefore behold that inward complexion as it were of soules? For he that knoweth not the cause, may marueile in like maner, why some sound bodies agree better with sweete things, and other with tart. And why some sick men are healed with gentle and some with sharper physicke. But to a Physitian who knoweth the manner and temper both of health and sicknesse, this is nothing strange.

Now,

<sup>k</sup> The iudgments of men vncertaine.

God seeth  
what is  
most fitting  
for every  
man, and  
disposeth  
accordingly

m A Poet of  
Cordona.

Now, what is the health of soules,  
but vertue? What sicknesse haue  
they, but vices? And who either  
conserueth goodnesse, or expelleth  
euils, but God the ruler and gover-  
nour of mens minds? Who behol-  
ding from his high turret of proui-  
dence, seeth what is fitting for every  
one, and applieth that, which hee  
knoweth to bee most conuenient.  
Hence proceedeth that strange  
wonder of fatal order, when he that  
knoweth what is best, doth that,  
which the ignorant admire. For to  
touch briefly some few things of  
the diuine depth, which humane  
reason is able to attaine, whome  
thou thinkest most iust, and most  
obseruant of equity, seemeth other-  
wise in the eies of prouidence which  
knoweth all. And our friend <sup>m</sup>Lu-  
can noteth, that the cause of the con-  
querours

querours pleased the Gods, and that of the conquered, *Cato*. Wherefore whatsoeuer thou seest done heere against thy expectation, is right order in the things themselves, but a peruerse confusion in thy opinion. But let there be one so wel conditioned, that God and men approue and praise him, yet perhaps he is so weake a minded man, that if he falleth into aduersity, he wil forsake his innocency, which was not able to keepe him in prosperity. Wherefore Gods wile dispensation spareth him that aduersity might make worse, least he should suffer, to whome difficulties are dangerous. There is another complete in al vertues, a Saint and nigh to God, prouidence iudgeth it a sacriledge to lay any afflictions on him, insomuch, that she permitteeth him not to be troubled so much

n This is a  
saying of a  
Christian  
diuine, who  
Philosophy  
acknow-  
ledgeth to  
excell her.  
*Viri sacri  
corpus & vir-  
tes adifica-  
uerunt.*

as with corporall sicknesse. For as  
one, that excelleth me, saith: *Αἰσῶς  
ἐν τῷ σῶμα δυνάμει δὲ καὶ σοφίᾳ.* It hapneth ofte  
also, that the chiefe cōmand is giuen  
to good mē, that wickednes, which  
otherwise would overflow all, may  
be kept downe. She mixeth for o-  
thers sower with sweete according  
to the disposition of their soules,  
she checketh some, lest they should  
fall to dissolution by long prosperi-  
ty, others she suffereth to be tossed  
with many stormes, that they may  
confirm the forces of their minde  
with the vse and exercise of patience.  
Some are too much afrayde of that,  
which they are able to beare. Other  
make lesse account then there is  
cause of that, which they cannot  
endure, these shee assayeth with af-  
flictions that they may make triall  
of themselves. Many haue bought  
the



the renowne of this world with a glorious death. Some ouercoming all torments, haue shewed by their example, that vertues cannot be conquered by miseries, which things how well and orderly they are done, and how much to their good, to whom they happen, there can bee no doubt. For that sometimes greuous, sometime pleasant things befall in like maner the wicked, proceedeth from the same causes. And as for aduersitie, no man merueileth, because all thinke that they deserue ill, whose punishments doe both terrifie others from the like courses, and moue them to amend themselves: And their prosperitie is a great argument to the good, what they ought to iudge of this happinesse, which they see oftentimes bestowed vpon the wic-

ked. In which this also is to be considered, that peradventure some haue so headlong and vntoward a disposition, that pouertie would rather make him worse, whose disease is cured by prouidence, with giuing him store of money; Another knowing his owne guilty conscience, and reflecting vpon his owne estate, is afraid least the losse of that should be grieuous vnto him, the vse of which is pleasant. Wherefore he resolueth to chang his customes, and whiles he feareth to loose his prosperitie, he forsaketh wickednes. The increafe of honor vnderuedly obtained, hath throwne some headlong into their deserued destruction. Others are permitted to haue authoritie to punish others, that they may exercise the good, and punish the bad. For as there is  
no

no league betweene vertuous & wicked men, so neither can the wicked agree among themselves. Why not? Since they disagree within themselves, by reason of their vices which teare their conscience, so that they many times doe that, which afterward they wish vndon. Fro whence that highest prouidence, often worketh that wonderfull miracle, that euill men make those, which are euill, good. For some considering the iniustice done the by most wicked men, out of their hatred to their enemies, haue embraced vertue, procuring to be contrary to them, whom they hate. For it is onely a Diuine strength, to which euen euill things are good, when by vsing them in due sort, it draweth some good effect out of them. For a certaine order embraceth al things, so that euen

*Difficile  
autem est  
me sermone  
explicare .  
quem ad  
modum De  
us omnino  
gat et pro  
videntia  
disponat .*

that, which departeth from the order appointed to it, though it falleth into another, yet that is order also, least cōfused rathnes shold beare any sway in the kingdome of providēce

Ἀργαλέον δ' ἐμὲ ταῦτα θεῶν ὡς πᾶσι ἀβραβεῖν For it is

impossible for any man either to comprehend by his witt, or to explicate in spech al the frames of Gods work.

It is sufficient, that we haue scene thus much, that God the authour of all natures, directeth and disposeth also all things to goodnesse, and while hee endeuoureth to reduce those things which he hath produced to his owne likenesse, hee banisheth all euill from the bonndes of his common wealth, by the course of fatall necessitie. So that, if thou considerest the disposition of providence, thou wilt perceiue that euill, which is thought so to abound

bound vpon earth, hath no place left for it at all. But I see that long since burthened with so weighty a question, and wearied with my long discourse, thou expectest the delight of verses; wherfore take a draught, that being refreshed, thou maiest be able to goe forward.

THE VI. VERSE.

Phylosophy praiseth Gods prouidence.

**I**f thou wouldest see  
 Gods lawes with purest mind,  
 Thy sight on heau'n must fixed be,  
 Whose settled course the Starres in peace doth bind.  
 The Sunnes bright fire  
 Stops not his sisters steame  
 Nor doth the Northerne beare desire  
 Within the Oceans waue to hide her beame.  
 Though she beheld  
 Th'other Starres their couching:  
 Yet shee vncessantly is rowl'd  
 About the heau'n the Ocean neuer touching.  
 The En'ning light  
 With certaine course doth shew  
 The coming of the shady night,  
 And Lucifer before the day doth goe.

## Boelius his

This mutuall loue  
Courses eternall makes,  
And from the starry spheres above  
All cause of warre, and dangerous discord takes.

This sweet consent  
In equall bands doth tie  
The nature of each Element,  
So that the moist things yeeld unto the dry.

The piercing cold  
With flames doth friendship keepe  
The fire the highest place doth hold,  
And the grosse earth sinks downe into the deepe.

The flowry yeare  
Breathes odours in the spring  
The scorching summer corne doth beare  
The Autumne fruit from loaden trees doth bring.

The falling raine  
Doth winters moisture giue  
These rules thus nourish and maintaine  
All creatures, which we see on earth to liue.

And when they dye,  
These bring them to their end,  
While their Creatour sittes on high,  
Whose hand the raine of the whole world doth bend.

He as their King  
Rules them with Lordly might,  
From him they rise flourish and spring,  
He as their law and iudge deuises their right.

Those things, whose course  
Most swiftly slides away,  
His might doth open backward force,

And

And suddenly their wandering motion stay.  
 Unlesse his strength  
 Their violence should bound,  
 And them which else would runne at length,  
 Should bring within the compasse of a round:  
 That firme decree  
 Which now doth all adorne  
 Would soone destroy'd and broken bee,  
 Things being farre from their beginning borne.  
 This powerfull lone  
 Is common vnto all  
 Which for desire of good doe moue  
 Backe to the springs from whence they first did fall.  
 No worldly thing  
 Can a continuance haue  
 Unlesse lone backe againe it bring,  
 Vnto the cause, which first the essence gaue.

THE VII. PROSE.

All fortune is good.

**P**Erceiuest thou now, what  
 followeth of al, that we haue  
 hetherto said? what? (quoth  
 I.) That (quoth she) all maner of  
 fortune is good: How can that bee?  
 (quoth I.) Be attentive (quoth she)  
 since that al fortune, be it pleasing or  
 vnplea-

vnpleasing, is directed to the reward  
or exercise of the good, and to the  
punishment and direction of the  
wicked, it is manifest, it is all good,  
since it is all iust, or profitable. Thy  
reason is very true (quoth I) and if  
I consider prouidence & fate, which  
thou diddest explicate a little before,  
thy opinion is well grounded. But  
if thou pleasest let vs account it a-  
mong those, which thou not long  
since supposedst incredible. What?  
(quoth she) Because men common-  
ly vse to say, and repeat, that some  
haue ill fortune: Shall wee (quoth  
she) frame our speech to the vulgar  
phrase, least we seeme to haue as it  
were forsaken the vse of humane  
conuersation? As it pleaseth thee  
(quoth I.) Doest thou not thinke  
then, that that is good, which is pro-  
fitable? Yes (quoth I.) But that,  
which



which either exerciseth, or correcteth, is profitable. It is true (quoth I,) It is good then. VVhy not? But this is the estate of them, who being either vertuous strive with aduersity, or forsaking vices, betake themselves to the way of vertue. I cannot denie it (quorh I.) Now, what sayest thou to that pleasing fortune, which is giuen in reward to the good, doth the common people account it badde? No, but iudgeth it exceeding good, as it is indeed. And what of the other, which being vnpleasing, restraineth the euil with iust punishment, doeth not the people thinke it good? Yea (quoth I) they thinke it the most miserable that can be. Looke then (quoth shee) how following the peoples opinion, we haue concluded a very incredible matter. What? (quoth I.) For it follow-

followeth (quoth she) out of that, which is granted, that all their fortune, whatsoeuer it be, who are either in the possession, or encrease or entrance of vertue, is good: and theirs, which remaine in vices, the worst that may be. This (quoth I) is true, though none dare say so. VVherefore (quoth she) a wise man must be no more troubled, when he is assaulted with aduersitie: then a valiant Captaine dismayd at the sound of an alarum. For difficulties are the matter, by which the one must encrease his glory, and the other confirme his wisdom. For which cause vertue is so called, because it hath sufficient strength to ouercome aduersitie. For you, that are proficient in vertue, are not come to bee dissolute with dainties, or to languish in pleasures,

tures, but you skirmish fiercely with any fortune, least either affliction oppresse you, or prosperitie corrupt you, and so procure to stay your selues strongly in the meane. For whatsoeuer commeth either short, or goeth beyond, may well contemne felicity, but will neuer obtaine any reward of labour. For it is placed in your power, to frame to your selues, what fortune you please. For all that seemeth vnfauor-ry, either exerciseth, or correcteth, or punisheth.

THE VII. VERSE.

*Phylosophy exhorteth to labours.*

**R**euengfull <sup>a</sup> *Atreus* soune did ten whole yeares employ  
In wars, till he his <sup>b</sup> brothers losse repaid with ran sacke  
He setting forth the Fleete of Greece vpon the seas (Troy,  
And knowing well, that onely bloud the angry winds would  
Forget a fathers part and with his cruel knife (please,  
Vnto the Gods did sacrifice his dearest daughters life.  
Vlisses wait'd the losse of his most faithfull men  
Whom <sup>d</sup> *Polixenus* did deuoure inclosed in his den  
in Sicily, hauing but one eye in his fore-head, which Vlisses did put out.

<sup>a</sup> Agamemnon.

<sup>b</sup> Menelaus whose wife Helena, Paris tooke away.

<sup>c</sup> Iphigenia.

<sup>d</sup> A Gyant.

e Halt men  
and halfe  
horses  
f Huge  
birde in the  
fer called  
Stymphalus  
in Arcadia.  
g The dog  
Cerberus  
who had 3.  
heads.  
h Diome-  
des King of  
Thracia,  
who fedde  
his hortes  
with mans  
flesh.

But when his hand by sleight had made the Cyclops blind,  
Most pleasant toy in stead of former teares possesse his mind.  
Hercules famous is for his laborious toyle, ((poyle  
VWho tam'd the Centaurs, and did take the dreadful Lions  
He the Stymphalian birds with piercing arrowes strooke,  
And from the watchful Dragons care the golden apples took  
He in a threefold chaine the hellish porter ledde,  
And with their cruell masters flesh the savage hortes fedde  
He did the encreasing heads of poy'nous Hydra burne,  
And breaking Achelous hortes did make him back return  
He on the Libyan sands did proud Antaeus kill,  
And with the mighty Gacus bloud Quanders wrath fulfil.  
He with the dreadfull Bore encount' red, and him slew,  
Remayning prest, if he were Erg'd his labours to renew.  
To beare Heav'n of his toyles the last was, and most hard,  
And for this last & greates toile the hea' n was his reward.  
You valiant men pursue this way of high renowne, (crown.  
VWhy yeeld you? overcome the earth, and you the starres shall

i Who had turned himselfe into the forme of a bull. k The sonne of  
Neptune, who by touching the earth recovered strength, and therefore  
Hercules held him vp, and so slew him. l Vulcans son, who did cast out  
of his mouth fire and smoke. m King of Arcadia. n In stead of  
Atlas.

THE



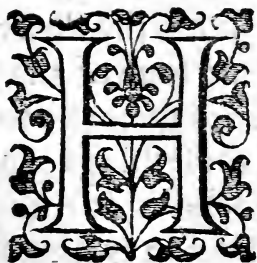
THE  
FIFT BOOKE OF  
BOETIVS.

Of chance and freewill, and  
how they stand with Prouidence

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THE I. PROSE.

*Of chance.*



Having sayd thus,  
she began to turne  
her speech to cer-  
taine other questi-  
ons; when I inter-  
rupted her, saying:  
Thy

Thy exhortation is very good, and well beſeeming thy authority. But I find it true by experience, as thou affirmedſt, that the queſtion of providence, is entangled with many other. For I deſire to know, whether thou thinkeſt chance to be anything at al, & what it is. I make haſt (quoth ſhee) to performe my promiſe, and to ſhew thee the way, by which thou mayeſt returne to thy coun- trey. And theſe other queſtions, though they be very profitable, yet they are ſomewhat from our purpoſe, and it is to be feared, leaſt being wearied with digreſſions, thou beeſt not able to finiſh thy direct journey. There is no feare of that (quoth I) for it will be a great eaſe to me, to vnderſtand thoſe things, in which I take great delight, & with- all when thy diſputation is fenced in

in on euery side; there can bee no doubt made of any thing thou shalt inferre. I will (quoth shee) doe, as thou wouldest haue me, and withall beganne in this maner: If any shall define chance to be, an euent produced by a confused motion; & without connexion of causes, I affirme that there is no such thing, and that chance is only an empty voyce without any yeall signification. For what place can confusion haue, since God disposeth all things in due order. For it is a true sentence, that of nothing commeth nothing, which none of the ancients denied, though they held not that principle of the efficient cause, but of the materiall subject; that is of the nature of all formes. But if any thing proceedeth from no causes, that will seeme to haue come from nothing,

quod ex nihilo                      R                      which

## Boetius his

which if it cannot bee, neither is it possible there should be any such chance, as is defined a little before. What then (quoth I,) is there nothing that can rightly bee called chance, or fortune? Or is there something, though vnknownen to the common sort, to which these names agree? My *Aristotle* (quoth shee) in his bookes of nature declared this point briefly and truly. How? (quoth I.) When (quoth shee) any thing is done for some certain cause, and some other thing hapneth, for some reasons, then that, which was intended, this is called chance: as if one digging his ground with intention to till it, findeth an hidden treasure. This is thought to haue fallen thus out by fortune, but it is not of nothing, for it hath peculiar causes, whose vnexpected & not foreseene concurrence



concourse seemeth to haue brought forth a chance. For vnlesse the Husbandman had digged vp his grounds, and vnlesse the other had hidden his money in that place, the treasure had not beene found. These are therefore the causes of this fortunate accident, which proceedeth from the meeting and concourse of causes, and not from the intention of the doer. For neither he that hid the golde, nor hee that tilled his ground, had any intention that the money should be found, but, as I said, it followed and concurred, that this man should dig vp that, which the other hidde. VWherefore wee may define <sup>a</sup> chance thus: that it is an vnexpected euent of concurring causes, in those things, which are done to some end and purpose. Now the cause, why causes concurre and

R 2

meete

<sup>a</sup> What  
Chance is.

meete so together, is that order proceeding with ineuitable connexion, which descending from the fountaine of prouidence, dispolet all things in their places and times.

THE FIFTH VERSE.

How casuall events are guided from the throne by prouidence.

**I**N th' Achemenian rocks, where Parthians met their daies  
In their dissembled flight, doe wound their enemies,  
Tigris from the same head doth with Euphrates rise  
And forthwith they themselves denide in seuerall parts:  
But if they ioyne againe, and then one channell bound,  
Bringing together all that both their waues doe beare,  
The ships and trees, whose rootes they from the bankes doe teare,  
Will meete, and they their floods will mingle and confound,  
Yet runnes this waixdring course in places which are low,  
And in these sliding streames a settled law remaines.  
So fortune though it seemes to runne with carelesse ramies,  
Yet hath it certaine rule, and doth in order flow.

THE  
THE

## THE II. PROSE.

*Of freewill.*

**O**bserne it (quoth I) and I acknowledge it to bee as thou sayest. But in this ranke of coherent causes, haue wee any free will, or doth the fatall chaine fasten also the motions of mens minds? We haue (quoth he) for there can be no resonable nature, vnlesse it be endewed with freewill. For that which naturally hath the vse of reason, hath also iudgement, by which he can discerne of every thing by it selfe, wherfore he putteth a difference betwixt those things, which are to bee auoided, and those which are to bee desired. Now euery one seeketh for that, which he thinketh is to be desired, and eschueeth that which in his iudgement

is to be auoyded. Wherefore they which haue reason, haue freedom to will and nill. But yet I make not this equal in al. For the supreme and diuine substances haue both a perspicuous iudgment, & an incorrupted wil, & an effectual power to obtaine their desires. But <sup>a</sup> the minds of men must needs be more free, when they conserue themselves in the contemplation of God, & lesse, when they come <sup>b</sup> to their bodies, and yet lesse when they are bound with earthly fetters. But their greatest bondage is, when giuing themselves to vices, they loose the possession of their owne reason. For hauing cast their eyes from the light of the soueraigne truth to inferiour obscurities, forthwith they are blinded with the cloud of ignorance, molested with hurtfull affections, by yeelding and  
consen-

<sup>a</sup> This is spoken according to the opinior of the Platonists.

<sup>b</sup> Before they enforme then

consenting to which, they increase the bondage, which they layd vppon themselves, and are after a certaine manner captiues by their own freedom. Which notwithstanding that foresight of prouidence, which beholdeth all things from eternity, foreseeeth, and by predestination disposeth of euery thing by their merits. *ἡ γὰρ ἰσχυρὰ καὶ παντ' ἐκταύρει*

*Omnia videt  
& omnia  
audis.*

THE II. VERSE.

How God knoweth all things.

*S*weete Homer sings the praise  
Of Phabus cleare and bright,  
And yet his strongest rayes  
Cannot with feeble light  
Cast through the secret waies  
Of earth and seas his sight:  
But he, that did the world deuise,  
Looketh from high with clearer eyes.  
The earths vast depths vnseene  
From his sight are not free,  
No clouds can stand betweene,  
He at one stroke doth see

*What are, and what haue bene,  
And what shall after bee.*

*Whom (since he onely vieweth all)*

*You rightly the true Sonne may call.*

## THE III. PROSE.

Boetius proposeth the difficulty of con-  
cording Gods providence with mens  
free-will.



Then I complayned, that I  
was now in a greater confu-  
sion, & more doubtful dif-  
ficultie then before. What is that?  
(quoth she) for I already coniecture  
what it is that troubleth thee. It  
seemeth (quoth I) to bee altogether  
impossible and repugnant, that God  
foreseeth all things, and that there  
should be any free-will. For if God  
beholdeth all things, and cannot be  
deceiued, that must of necessity fol-  
low, which his providence foreseeth  
to be to come. Wherefore if from  
eternity he doth not only foreknow  
the

the deeds of men, but also their counsels & wils, there can be no freewill; for there is not any other deede or wil, but thole, which the diuine prouidence that cannot bee deceiued, hath foreseene. For if things can be drawnto any other course, then was foreknowne, there will not be any firm knowledg of that, which is to come, but rather an vncertaine opinion, which in my opinion were impious to belecue of God. Neither do I allow of that reaso, with which some suppose that they can dissolue the difficulty of this question. For they say, that nothing is therefore to come to passe, because prouidence did foresee it, but rather contrarywise, because it shall bee, it could not be vnkown to prouidence, and in like manner it is necessary, that the other should be true.

For it is not necessarie that those things should happen, which are foreseene, but it is necessarie that those things shoul be foreseene, that are to come. As though our question were, which of them is the others cause, the foreknowledge of the necessitie of things to come, or the necessitie of things to come of the foreknowledge. But let vs endeavour to proue, that howsoeuer these causes be ordered, the event of the things, which are foreknowne, is necessary, although the foreknowledge seemeth not to inferre necessitie of being vpon the things themselves. For if any man sitteth, the opinion which thinketh so, must needs be true, and againe on the other side, if the opinion that one sitteth be true, hee must needs sitte. Wherefore there is necessitie in both  
in



in the one of sitting, and in the other of truth. But one sitteth not, because the opinion is true, but rather this is true, because one sitteth. So that though the cause of truth proceedeth from one part, yet there is a common necessity in both. And the like is to be inferred of providence, & future things. For although they be foreseene, because they shall be, and they doe not come to passe, because they are foreseene: notwithstanding it is necessary, that things to come be foreseene, or that things fore seen doe fall out; which alone is sufficient to overthrow freewill. Besides how preposterous is it, that the event of temporall things should be said to be the cause of the everlasting foreknowledge: And what els is it to thinke, that God doth therefore foresee future things, because they

they are to happen, then to affirme that those things which happened long since, are the cause of that soueraigne prouidence? Furthermore, as whe I know any thing to be, it must needs be: so when I know, that any thing shall be, it must needs be to come. And so it followeth, that the euent of a thing foreknowen cannot bee auoyded. Finally if any man thinketh otherwise, then the thing is, that is not onely no knowledge, but it is a deceitfull opinion, farre from the truth of knowledge; wherefore if any thing is to bee in such sort, that the euent of it is not certaine or necessary, how can that be foreknowen that it shall happen? for as the knowledge is without mixture of falsity, so that, which is conceiued by it, cannot be otherwise then it is conceiued. For this is the  
cause

cause, why knowledg is without deceit, because euery thing must needs be so, as the knowledge apprehendeth it to be. What then? How doth God foreknow, that these vncertaine things shall bee? For if hee iudgeth that those things shall happen inevitably, which it is possible shall not happen, hee is deccied, which is not onely impious to thinke, but also to speake. But if he suppoeth, that they shall happen in such sort as they are, so that hee knoweth, that they may equally be done, and not be done, what foreknowledge is this, which comprehendeth no certaine or stable thing. Or in what is this better then that ridiculous prophecy of *Tiresia*? Whatsoeuer I say, shall either be, or not be, or in what shall the diuine prouidence exceede humane opinion, if,

if, as men, God iudgeth those things to be vncertaine, the euent of which is doubtfull? But if nothing can be vncertaine to that most certaine fountaine of all things, the euent of those things is certaine, which he doth certainly know shall be. Wherefore there is no freedome in humane counsels & actions, which the diuine mind foreseeing al things without error or falshood, tyeth and bindeth to one euent. Which once admitted, it is euident, what ruine of humane affayres wil ensue. For in vain are rewards and punishments proposed to good and euill, which no free and voluntary motion of their minds hath deserued. And that will seeme most vniust, which is now iudged most iust, that either the wicked should be punished, or the good rewarded, since their  
owne

owne will leadeth them to neither, but they are compelled by the certaine necessity of that, which is to come. By which meanes vertues and vices shall be nothing, but rather there will follow a mixt confusion of all deserts. And, then which there can be nothing inuented more impious, since that al order of things proceedeth from prouidence, and humane counsels can do nothing, it followeth, that our vices also shal be referred to the author of goodnesse. Wherefore there is no meanes left to hope or pray for any thing. For what can any man either hope or pray for, since an vnflexible course connecteth all things that can bee desired? VVherefore that onely trafficke betwixt God and men of hope and prayer shall bee taken away. For by the price of iust humili-

humility, we deserue the vnestima-  
ble benefite of Gods grace, which is  
the onely manner, by which it seem-  
eth that men may talke with God,  
and by the very manner of supplica-  
tion be ioyned to that inaccessible  
light, before they obtain any thing:  
which, if by the admitting the ne-  
cessity of future things, they bee  
thought to haue no force: by what  
shall we be vnited and cleaue to that  
soveraigne Prince of all things?  
Wherefore mankind must needes,  
(as thou saydest in thy verse a little  
before) being separated and seuered  
from his fountaine, faile & fall away.

THE III. VERSE.

*How we come to know the truth.*

**W**hat cause of discord breakes the bands of love?  
What God betweene two truths such wars doth moue?  
That things which seu'rally well settled be,

Yet say'd in one will neuer friendly prone?  
 Or in true things can we no discord see,  
 Because all certainties doe still agree?  
 But our dull soule, couer'd with members blind,  
 Knowes not the secret lawes, which things doe bind,  
 By the drown'd light of her oppressed fire.  
 Why then, the hidden notes of things to find,  
 Doth shee with such a tone of truth desire?  
 If shee knowes that, which she doth so require.  
 Why wisheth shee knowne things to know againe?  
 If she knowes not why strives she with blind paine?  
 Who after things unknowne will strive to goe?  
 Or will such ignorant pursuite maintaine?  
 How shall she find them out? or having so,  
 How shall she then their formes and natures know?  
 Because this soule the highest mind did view,  
 Must we? needes say, that it all natures knew?  
 Now she, though cloudes of flesh doe her debarre,  
 Forgetts not all, that was her ancient due,  
 But in her mind some gen'rall notions are,  
 Though not the skill of things particular.  
 He that seekes truth, in neither course doth fall,  
 Not knowing all nor ignorant of all.  
 He marketh gen'rall things which he retaines,  
 And matters seene on high doth backe recall.  
 And things forgotten to his mind regaines,  
 And ioynes them to that part, which there remains.

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## THE IIII. PROSE.

*Phylosophy beginneth to solue the difficulties, which Boetius proposed.*

**T**His (quoth shee) is an ancient complaint of prouidence, vehemently pursued by *Marcus Tullius*, in his distribution of diuination, and a thing which thou thy selfe hast made great and long search after; But hetherto none of you haue vsed sufficient diligence and vigour in the explication thereof. The cause of which obscurity is, for that the motion of humane discourse cannot attain to the simplicity of the diuine knowledge, which if by any meanes wee could conceiue there would not remain any doubt at all, which I will endeavour

uour



our to make manifest and plaine,  
when I have first explicated that,  
which moueth thee. For I demand,  
why thou thinkest their solution  
insufficient, who thinke that free-  
will is not hindered by foreknow-  
ledge, because they suppose that fore-  
knowledge is not the cause of any  
necessity in things to come. For  
fetchest thou any prooffe for the ne-  
cessity of future things from any o-  
ther principle, but onely from this,  
that those things which are fore-  
knowne, cannot chuse but happen?  
wherefore if foreknowledge impo-  
seth no necessitie vpon future e-  
uent, which thou diddest grant no  
long before, why should voluntary  
actions be tyed to any certaine suc-  
cesse? For examples sake, that thou  
maiest see what will follow, let  
vs suppose that there were no proui-

dence or foresight at all. Would those things which proceede from freewill, be compelled to any necessity by this meanes? No. Againe let vs grant it to be, but that it imposeth no necessity vpon any thing, no doubt the same freedome of will, will remaine whole and absolute. But thou wilt say, though foreknowledge be not a necessity for things to happen, yec it is a signe, that they shal necessarily come to passe. VVherefore now, though there had bin no foreknowledge, the euents of future things would haue beene necessary. For all signes only shew something, that is, but cause not that which they designe. And consequently it must first be proued, that all things fall out by necessity, that it may appeare that foreknowledge is a signe of this necessity. For otherwise if there be no necessity,

necessitie, neither can foreknowledge be the signe of that, which is not. Besides it is manifest that eue-  
ry firme prooffe must bee drawne  
from intrinsecall and necessary  
causes, and not from signes and o-  
ther farrefetched arguments. But  
how is it possible, those things  
should not happen, which are fore-  
seene to be to come? As though we  
did beleue that those things will  
not be, which prouidence hath fore-  
knowne, and doe not rather iudge,  
that although they happen, yet by  
their owne nature they had no ne-  
cessity of being, which thou maiest  
easily gather hence. For we see ma-  
ny things with our eyes, while they  
are in doing, as those things which  
the Coach-men do while they driue  
and turne their Coaches, and  
in like manner other things.

Now doth necessity compell any of these things to be done in this sort? No. For in vain should Art labour, if all things were moued by compulsion. VVherefore as these things are without necessity, when they are in doing, so likewise they are to come without necessity, before they bee done. And consequently there are some things to come, whose euent is free from all necessity. For I suppose no man will say, that those things, which are done now, were not to come, before they were done. VVherefore these things being foreseene, come freely to effect. For as the knowledge of things present causeth no necessity in things which are in doing, so neither the foreknowledg in things to come. But thou wilt say, This is the question, whether there can bee  
any

any foreknowledg of those things, whose euent is not necessary. For these things seeme opposite, and thou thinkest, that if future things be foreseene, there followeth necessity, if there bee no necessity, that they are not foreknowen, and that nothing can be perfectly knowne, vnlesse it be certaine- And if vncertaine euent be foreseene as certain, it is manifest that this is the obscurity of opinion and not the truth of knowledge. For thou thinkest it to be farre from the integrity of knowledge, to iudge otherwise then the thing is. The cause of which error is, because thou thinkest that all that is knowen, is knowen onely by the force and nature of the things themselues, which is altogether otherwise. For all that is knowne, is not comprehended according to the

the force which it hath in it selfe, but rather according to the facultie of them which know it. For to explicate it with a briefe example: the sight, and the feeling doe diuersly discern the roundnesse of a dye. The sight standing aloofe, beholdeth it altogether by his beames; but the feeling vnited and ioyned to the orbe, being moued about the compasse of it, comprehendeth the roundnes by parts. Likewise sense, imagination, reason and vnderstanding doe diuersly behold a man. For sense looketh vpon his forme as it is placed in matter or subiect, the imagination discerneth it alone without matter. Reason passeth beyond this also, and considereth vniuersally the species or kind, which is in particulars. The eye of the vnder-

derstanding is higher yet. For surpassing the compasse of the whole world, it beholdeth with the cleare sight of the mind, that simple forme in it selfe.

In which that is chiefly to bee considered, that the superiour force of comprehending embraceth the inferiour; but the inferiour can by no meanes attaine to the superiour: for the sense hath no force out of matter, neither doth the imagination conceiue vniuersall Species, nor reason is capable of the simple forme, but the vnderstanding, as it were, looking downeward, hauing conceyued that forme, discerneth of all thinges which are vnder it, but in that sorte, in which it apprehendeth that forme, which can bee knowne by none  
of

of the other. For it knoweth the vniuersality of reason, and the figure of imagination, and the materiality of sense, neither vsing reason, nor imagination, nor senses, but as it were formally beholding all things, with that one twinckling of the mind. Likewise reason, when it considereth any vniuersallity, comprehendeth both imaginable and sensible things without the vse of either imagination or senses. For she defineth the vniuersallity of her conceit thus: man is, a reasonable two-footed liuing creature, which being an vniuersall knowledge, no man is ignorant that it is an imaginable and sensible thing, which she considereth by a reasonable conceiving, and not by imagination or sense. Imagination also, although it began by the senses of seeing and forming



forming figures, yet when sense is absent, it beholdeth sensible things, not after a sensible, but after an imaginary manner of knowledge. Seest thou now how al these in knowing, doe rather vse their owne force and faculty, then the force of those things, which are knowen? Nor vnderferuedly, for since all iudgement is the act of him, who iudgeth, it is necessary that every one should perfect his operation by his owne power, and not by the force of any other.

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THE IIII. VERSE.

*That our knowledge is not wholly taken  
from the outward obiect.*

**A**ncients in schooles once too obscurely taught,  
That sense and shape presented to the thought,  
From outward obiects their impression take.

*As*

## Boetius his

As when upon a paper smooth and plaine,  
On which as yet no markes of inke haue layne,  
We with a nimble pen doe letters make.  
But if our mindst o nothing can apply  
Their proper motions, but doe patient, lie  
Subiect to formes, which doe from bodies flow,  
Like to a glasse, rendring the shapes of things,  
Who then can shew from whence that motion springs,  
By force of which the mind all things doth know?  
Or by what skill are sen'rall things espi'd?  
And being knowne, what power doth them deuide?  
And thus deuided, doth againe unite?  
And with a various iourney, oft aspires  
To highest things, and oft againe retires  
To basest, nothing being out of sight?  
And when she backe vnto her selfe doth moue,  
Doth all the fallhoods by the truth reprove,  
This vigour needes must be an actiue cause,  
And with more powerfull forces must be deckt,  
Then that, which from those formes that do reflect  
From outward matter, all her vertue drawes.  
And yet in liuing bodies passions might  
Doth goe before, whose office is't encite,  
And the first motions in the mind to make.  
As when the light vnto our eyes appeares,  
Or some loud voyce is sounded in our eares.  
Then doth the strength of the dull mind awake  
Those phantasies, which she retaynes within,  
She stirreth up such motionst o begin,  
Whose obiects with their naturcs best agree.  
And thus applying them to outward things,

*She ioynes th'externall shapen, which thence she brings  
With formes, which in her selfe included bee.*

THE V. PROSE.

*That reason must yeeld to the simpli-  
city of Gods knowledge.*



And if in the discerning of  
bodies by sense, although  
the qualities which are ob-  
iects do moue the organs of sense,  
and the passion of the body goeth  
before the vigor of the active mind,  
prouoking her action to it selfe, and  
exciting the inward formes, which  
before lay quiet; if (I say) in percei-  
uing these corporal objects, the mind  
taketh not her impression from pas-  
sion, but by her own force iudgeth of  
the passiō it self, which is objected to  
the body; how much more do those  
powers exercise the action of their  
mind,

minde, and not onely follow the outward objects in their iudgement, which are free from all affections of the body? Wherefore in this sort haue diuers and different substances, knowledges of many kinds. For onely sense destitute of all other, is in those liuing creatures, which are vnmoueable, as some shell-fish, and other which sticke to stones and so are nourished. And imagination in moueable beasts, who seeme to haue some power to couet, and flie. Reason belongeth onely to mankind, as vnderstanding to things Diuine; So that, that knowledge is most excellent, which of it selfe doth not onely know her owne object, but also those which belong to others. What then, if sense and imagination repugne to discourse and reason, affirming that vniuersality

fallity to be nothing, which reason thinketh her selfe to see? For that cannot be vniuersal, which is either sensible or imaginable. Wherefore either the iudgment of reason must be true, and nothing at all sensible, or because they know that many things are subiect to the senses and imagination, the conceit of reason is vaine, which considereth that which is sensible and singular, as if it were vniuersall. And if reason should answer, that she beholdeth in her vniuersallity, al that which is sensible or imaginable, but they cannot aspire to the knowledge of vniuersallity, because their knowledge cannot surpasse corporall figures and shapes. And that wee must giue more credite to the firmer and more perfect iudgement, about the knowledge of things. In this contention,

tion, should not wee, who haue the power of discoursing, as well as of imagination and sense, rather take reasons part? The very like happeneth, when humane reason doth not thinke, that the diuine vnderstanding doth beholde future things, otherwisethen she her selfe doth. For thus thou arguest, if any things seeme not to haue certaine and necessary euent, they cannot be certainly foreknowne to bee to come. Wherefore there is no foreknowledge of these things, and if we thinke that there is any, there shall be nothing, which happeneth not of necessity. If therefore, as we are endewed with reason, wee could likewise haue the iudgement proper to the diuine mind, as we haue iudged that imagination and sense must yeeld to reason, so likewise we would

would thinke it most reasonable and iust, that humane reason should submitte her selfe to the Diuine mind. Wherefore let vs bee lifted vp, as much as wee can to that height of the highest mind; for there reason shall see that, which she cannot behold in her selfe. And that is how a certaine and definite foreknowledge seeth those things, which haue no certaine issue, and that this is no opinion, but rather the simplicitie of the highest knowledge, inclosed with no bounds.

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THE V. VERSE.

*Mans body declareth, that his mind was made to contemplate heauenly things.*

*What few'rall figures things that liue vpon the earth do keepe:  
Some haue their bodies stretcht in length, by which the dust  
they sweepe*

*T*

*And*

## Boetius his

And do continuall furrowes make, while on their breasts they creepe.  
Some lightly soaring up on high, with wings the wind doth smite,  
And through the longest ayery space, passe with an easie flight.  
Some by their paces to imprint the ground with steps delight,  
Which through the pleasant fieldes doe passe, or to the woods do goe,  
Whose sen'rall formes though to our eyes they do a difference shew,  
Yet by their lookes cast downe on earth their senses heauy grow.  
Men onely with more stately shape to higher objects rise,  
Who with erected bodies stand, and doe the earth dispise.  
These figures warne (if baser thoughts blind not thine earthly eyes)  
That thou, who with an vp right face dost looke vpon the skie,  
Shouldest also raise thy mind aloft, least while thou bearest high  
Thy earthly head thy soule opprest beneath thy body lye.

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### THE VI. PROSE.

The concord of Gods prouidence with  
freewill is fully explicated.



Seeing therefore, as hath been  
shewed, all that is knowne,  
is not comprehended by his  
owne nature, but by the power of  
him, which comprehendeth it, let  
vs see now, as much as we may, what  
is the state of the diuine substance,  
that



that wee may also know, what his knowledge is. Wherefore it is the common iudgement of all that liue by reason, that God is euerlasting, and therefore let vs consider what<sup>a</sup> eternity is. For this will declare vnto vs both the Diuine nature and knowledge. Eternitie is a perfect possession all together of an endlesse life, which is more manifest by the comparison of temporall things, for whatsoeuer liueth in time, that being present proceedeth from times past, to times to come, and there is nothing placed in time, which can embrace all the space of his life at once. But he hath not yet attained to morrow, and hath lost yesterday. And you liue no more in this daies life, then in that moueable and transitory moment. wherefore whatsoeuer suffereth the

<sup>a</sup> Eternity  
what it is.

dition of time, although as *Aristotle* thought of the world) it neuer began, nor were euer to end, and his life did endure with infinite time, yet it is not such, that it ought to be called euerlasting. For it doth not comprehend and embrace all the space of his life together, though it be infinite, but it hath not the future time which is yet to come. That then which comprehendeth and possesseth the whole fullnesse of an endlesse life together, to which neither any part to come is absent, nor of that which is past, hath escaped, is worthely to bee accounted euerlasting, and this is necessary, that being no possession in it selfe, it may alway be present to it selfe, and haue an infinity of moueable time present to it. Wherefore they are deceived, who hearing that *Plato* thought,  
that

that this world had neither beginning of time, nor should euer haue any end, thinke that by this meanes the created world should be coeternall with the creator. For it is one thing, to bee carried through an endlesse life, which *Plato* attributed to the world, another thing to embrace the whole presence of an endlesse life together, which is manifestly proper to the Diuine mind. Neither ought God to seeme more ancient then things created by the quantity of time, but rather by the simplicity of his Diuine nature. For that infinite motiō of tēporal things imitateth the present state of the vn-moueable life, and since it cannot attaine nor equal it, it falleth from immobillitie to motion, & frō the simplicity of presence, it decreaseth to an infinite quātity of future & past

and since it cannot pollesse together all the fulnesse of his life, by neuer leauing to be in some sort, it seemeth to æmulate in part that, which it cannot fully obaine & expresse, tying it selfe to this small presence of this short & swift moment, which because it carrieth a certaine image of that abiding presence, whosoever hath it, seemeth to be. But because it could not stay, it vndertooke an infinite iourney of time, and so it came to passe, that it continued that life by going, whose plenitude it could not comprehend by staying. Wherefore if wee will giue things their right names, following *Plato*, let vs say that God is euerlasting, and the world perpetuall. Wherefore since euery iudgement comprehendeth those things which are subiect vnto it, according to his owne nature,  
and

and God hath alway an euerlasting and present state, his knowledge also surpassing all motion of time, remayneth in the simplicity of his presence, and comprehending the infinite spaces of that, which is past and to come, considereth all things in his simple knowledge, as though they were now in doing. So that, if thou wilt weigh his foreknowledge, with which he discerneth all things, thou wilt more rightly esteeme it to bee the knowledge of a neuer fading instant, then a foreknowledge as of a thing to come. For which cause it is not called præuidence or foresight, but rather prouidence, because placed farre from inferiour things, it beholdeth all things as it were from the highest toppe of things. Why therefore wilt thou haue those things necessary, which are illustra-

ted by the Diuine light, since that men make not those things necessary, which they see. For doth thy sight impose any necessity vpon those things, which thou seest present? No. But the present instant of men may well bee compared to that of God in this; that as you see some things in your temporall instant, so he beholdeth all things in his eternall presence. VVherefore this diuine foreknowledge doth not change the nature and propriety of things, and it beholdeth them such in his presence, as they will after come to bee, neyther doth hee confound the iudgement of things, and with one sight of his mind he discerneth as well those things which shal happen necessarily, as otherwise. As you when at one time you see a man walking vpon earth, and the Sun rising

sing in heauen, although they be both  
seene at once, yet you discern, and  
iudge that the one is voluntary, and  
the other necessary. So likewise the  
Diuine sight beholding all things,  
disturbeth not the quality of things,  
which to him are present, but in  
respect of time are yet to come.  
And so this is not an opinion, but  
rather a knowledge grounded vp-  
on truth, whē he knoweth that such  
a thing shalbe, which likewise he is  
not ignorāt, that it hath no necessi-  
ty of being. Here if thou sayest, that  
cannot chuse but happē, which God  
seeth shal happen, & that, which can  
not chuse but happen, must be of ne-  
cessity, and so tyeest me to this name  
of necessity: I will graunt, that  
it is a most solide trueth, but  
whereof scarce any but a con-  
templator of Diuinity is capable.  
For

For I will answer, that the same thing is necessary, when it is referred to the diuine knowledge; but when it is weighed in his owne nature, that it seemeth altogether free and absolute. For there be two necessities; the one simple, as that it is necessary for all men to be mortall. The other conditionall, as if thou knowest, that any man walketh, he must needes walke. For what a man knoweth, cannot bee otherwise, then it is knowne. But this conditionall draweth not with it that simple or absolute necessity. For this is not caused by the nature of the thing, but by the adding a condition. For no necessity maketh him to goe, that goeth of his owne accord, although it bee necessary that he goeth, while he goeth. In like manner if prouidence seeth a-

ny



nything present, that must needes be, although it hath no necessity of nature. But God beholdeth those future things, which proceed from freewill, present. These things therefore beeing referred to the Diuine sight are necessary by the condition of the diuine knowledg, and considered by themselves, they loose not the absolute freedom.e of their own nature. Wherefore doubtlesse all those things come to passe, which God foreknoweth shall come, but some of them proceede from freewill, which though they come to passe by being, yet they loose not their owne nature, because before they came to passe, they might also not haue happened. But what importeth it, that they are not necessary, since that by reason of the condition of the diuine knowledge, they  
come

come to passe in all respects, as if they were necessary. It importeth this, that those things, which I proposed a litle before, the Sunne rising, and the man going, while they are in doing, cannot chuse but bee in doing; yet one of them was necessarily to bee, before it was, and the other not. Likewise those things, which God hath present, haue doubtlesse a beeing, but some of them proceede from the necessity of things, other from the power of the doers. And therefore wee said not without cause, that these, if they bee referred to Gods knowledge, are necessary; and if they bee considered by themselves, they are free from the bonds of necessity. As whatsoever is manifest to senses, if thou referrest it to reason, is vniuersall, if thou considerest

it in it self, singular or particular. But thou wilt say, it is in my power to change my purpose, shall I frustrate providence, if I chance to alter those things, which she foreknoweth? I answer, that thou mayest indeede chaunge thy purpose, but beecause the trueth of providence being present seeth, that thou canst doe so, and whether thou wilt doe so or no, and what thou purposest anew, thou canst not avoyde the Divine foreknowledge; even as thou canst not avoyde the sight of an eye, which is present, although thou turnest thy selfe to diuers actions by thy freewill.

But yet thou wilt enquire, whether Gods knowledge shall bee chaunged by thy disposition, so that when thou wilt now one thing, and now another, it should  
also

also seeme to haue diuers knowledges. No. For Gods sight preuenteth all that is to come, and recalleth and draweth it to the presence of his owne knowledge; neither doth he vary, as thou imaginest, now knowing one thing and now another, but in one instant without moving preuenteth and comprehendeth thy mutations. Which presence of comprehending, and seeing all things God hath not by the euent of future things, but by his owne simplicity. By which that doubt is also resolued, which thou diddest put a litle before, that it is an vnworthy thing, that our future actions should be said to cause the knowledge of God. For this force of the diuine knowledge, comprehending all things with a present notion, appointeth to euery thing his measure,

sure, and receiueth nothing from ensuing accidents. All which being so, the freewill of mortall men remayneth vniolated, neither are the lawes vniust, which propose punishments and rewards to our wils, which are free from all necessity. There remayneth also a beholder of all things, which is God, who foreseeeth all things, and the eternity of his vision, which is alway present, concurreth with the future quality of our actions, distributing rewards to the good, and punishments to the euill. Neyther doe we in vaine put our hope in God, or pray to him, for if wee doe this well and as we ought, wee shall not loose our labour, or bee without effect. Wherefore flye vices, embrace vertues, possesse your mindes with worthy hopes, offer vp humble prayers

prayers to your highest Prince.  
There is, if you will not dissemble,  
a great necessity of doing wel im-  
posed vpon you, since you liue  
in the sight of your iudge,  
who beholdeth all  
things.

*F I N I S.*









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